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Upcoming ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Previewed

BK1407131792 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1059 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Jakarta, July 14 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas said that the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) which will be held in Manila next week, is to elect a new ASEAN secretary general who has a powerful role in dealing with ASEAN affairs.

The ASEAN's foreign ministers have agreed at the ASEAN summit held early this year to elect an ASEAN secretary general which will have greater power, Ali Alatas said here on Tuesday.

The minister said that the new ASEAN secretary general elected at the July 22-23 meeting, will replace Rusli Noor of Indonesia, whose three-year term ended earlier this year.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) consists of six countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines.

Minister Ali Alatas said that at the meeting, there would also be some changes in the association's structure, including increasing the secretary general's powers and extending this terms to five years.

The minister said that by now there are candidates of the new secretary general, they are from Malaysia and the Philippines.

ASEAN, which plays a key role in bringing warring factions in Cambodia to the negotiating table, plans to invite the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, to Manila.

The meeting will be followed by a three-day conference so called Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) with ASEAN's six major trade partners—the United States, Japan, Canada, the European Community, Australia, and New Zealand.

Russia, China, Laos, and Vietnam have also been invited to the conference.

The minister also said that the six foreign ministers of the ASEAN will discuss the disputed Spratly Islands and other security matters during meeting.

Six countries, including Malaysia, Brunei [words indistinct] three non-ASEAN countries which claim the islands are China, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

Tensions over the Spratlys rose after China signed an agreement with a U.S. oil company earlier this year to search for oil off reefs Vietnam claims are part of its continental shelf. China and Vietnam fought a naval battle over the islands in 1988.

Malaysian Minister on East Asian Economic Caucus

BK1407073492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Malaysia feels a stronger Southeast Asia resulting from interlinkages will undeniably lead to stronger economies in the region. This in turn will be the basis for political stability in Southeast Asia and its neighbors. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz points out that it is this rationale that prompted the formation of the East Asian Economic Caucus, EAEC.

Addressing the Australian National Press Club in Canberra, she said the proposed EAEC was aimed at looking at how East Asia's linkages can be brought about, while maintaining and upgrading relations with others. She emphasized that the proposed EAEC is not a closed club and will not be close to the interests of any third country which envisages its objectives when it becomes a reality. This is why Malaysia fails to understand why the EAEC which caters for both regional and global interests is given a rebuff, while others with similar aspirations like the EC, NAFTA [North American Free Trade Area], APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation], and [name indistinct] are given a positive nod.

Datuk Sri Rafidah hoped that Australia will understand the true concept and rationale underlying the proposed EAEC and the need for East Asia to expand its interlinkages as a supplement to its continuous and growing interlinkages either bilaterally, regionally, or multilaterally. She said Malaysia acknowledges the current thinking and policy changes in Australia regarding Asia, which will have a bearing on Malaysia's future within the room of East Asia.

Japan

Follow-Up Meeting on SII Agreements Ends

OW1407235092 Tokyo KYODO in English 2309 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—The United States expressed concern in two days of bilateral trade talks that ended Tuesday about Japan's antimonopoly law, Japanese officials said.

In the working-level meeting, a follow-up to the 1990 Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) agreements, U.S. officials urged decontrol of nonlife insurance premiums and of minimum charges at hairdressers and beauty salons, they said.

Under the SII process, Japan has pledged to strengthen its antimonopoly law, which has not been applied to such businesses.

A bill to revise the law by raising the maximum fine on corporate violators to 100 million yen from the present 5 million yen was debated in the recent Diet session, but was carried over to the next session due to a lack of time.

The U.S. negotiators also asked Japan to implement such land and housing policies as to bring down the price of houses to less than five times the average annual salary as part of a new five-year economic program aimed at improving the quality of life, the officials said.

The two countries will work out the second annual report summing up the SII talks at a subcabinet-level meeting scheduled for July 28 and 29 in Tokyo.

MITI: Government Urged To Buy Foreign Goods

OW1507120592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—A European executive suggested Wednesday that Japan use 2 or 3 percent of its supplementary budget directly to procure foreign goods, a Ministry of International Trade and Industry official said.

Jean-Louis Claudon, Asia Pacific representative of Arianespace, made the suggestion at the third import board meeting, set up in 1990 under the Trade Conference, an advisory body to the prime minister, to hear foreigners' opinions on expanding imports to Japan, the official said.

The supplementary budget, expected to be compiled in the fall, is to be the centerpiece of 6 trillion to 7 trillion yen worth of pump-priming measures proposed recently by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Joseph Gorman, chairman of U.S. high-technology firm TRW Inc., urged the Japanese Government and businesses to work out an "import vision" to make a positive appeal to the entire public about imports, the official said.

The Japanese side warned that if such vision includes specific figures, it could be managed trade, he said.

The meeting, attended by foreign and Japanese business leaders and directors general of ministries concerned, agreed to have additional smaller ad hoc gatherings to discuss specific subjects, the official said.

Talks on Peace Treaty With Russia Open 15 Jul

OW1507012992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0106 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—A second round of working-level talks aimed at forging a Japan-Russia peace treaty opened here Wednesday with focus on the bilateral territorial dispute and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's scheduled visit to Japan in mid-September.

Deputy vice minister for foreign affairs, Kunihiko Saito, leads the Japanese delegation at the Foreign Ministry for the two-day talks. Russian Vice Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze heads the Russian team.

Kunadze, in a report from Moscow Tuesday, said he looked forward to progress in resolving the disputed claim over four islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido during the negotiations.

Last week, the Russian vice foreign minister suggested the treaty should incorporate a 1956 provision for the return of two of the islands to Japan in an effort to unlock the stalemate that has prevented Tokyo from signing a peace treaty with Moscow for four decades.

In the Tokyo talks, negotiators are expected to attempt to reach an agreement on the territories or a collection of materials that can be signed during Yeltsin's visit in September, and consider the possibility of issuing a joint declaration.

Kunadze, who is scheduled to call on Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe while he is in Tokyo, will also discuss with Saito mutual visits by the foreign ministers.

Fail 'To Make Progress'

OW1507124892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—Japanese and Russian Government officials failed to make progress toward forging a bilateral peace treaty in their first day of working-level talks Wednesday.

The talks focused on a dispute over four small islands off Hokkaido seized from Japan by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

Tokyo, demanding the return of what it calls its "northern territories," has never signed a peace treaty to formally end hostilities with Moscow and has refused to provide full-fledged aid.

Japan persuaded six other major industrial nations last week to mention the bilateral dispute in the political declaration of their Group of Seven (G-7) Summit in Munich.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin criticized the brief reference on his way to Munich to meet G-7 leaders.

But Japanese officials were pleased Wednesday that the Russian side, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kunadze, did not use the first day of the two-day bilateral talks to blast Japan for pressing its G-7 partners to include the reference in the document.

Instead, Kunadze agreed with Japan that the G-7 mentioned the territorial dispute because it represents practically the last vestige of the past world order and must be resolved to build a new one, the officials said. They said Kunadze accepted Japan's explanation that the reference was not intended as a means of "pressuring" Russia.

The Japanese side, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito, agreed with the Russians that the territorial dispute is basically a bilateral issue and that the G-7 reference to it was based on that understanding.

The G-7 leaders said they "welcome Russia's commitment to a foreign policy based on the principle of law and justice" and that they "believe this represents a basis for full normalization of the Russia-Japanese relationship through resolving the territorial issue."

Japanese officials said both sides Wednesday discussed the schedule for Yeltsin's visit in mid-September and reconfirmed that he and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa would hold talks September 14 and 15.

Japan is urging Yeltsin to decide by the time of the visit to return the islands.

Saito reiterated Japan's offer of flexibility on the timing and conditions for return if Russia will agree in principle to hand over all four islands, officials said.

They quoted Saito as saying that in view of Yeltsin's vow to pursue a foreign policy rooted in "law and justice," Japan thinks it only natural that talks proceed from a recognition by Russia of a 1956 Japanese-Soviet agreement that Moscow return the two smallest islands—Shikotan and the Habomai islets—after conclusion of a peace treaty.

Moscow took the promise back in 1960.

Japan also demands the return of Kunashiri and Etorofu islands.

Kunadze explained Russia's situation at length, focusing on the complexities surrounding the territorial issue, according to the Japanese officials. They said the 1956 joint declaration was mentioned but declined to elaborate.

Saito was quoted as saying that while Japan understands that Moscow faces domestic opposition to returning the islands, Russia must understand Japan's strong desire for their return.

He said Japanese public opinion would not allow Tokyo to soften its refusal to give Moscow "unrestricted" aid until the dispute is settled, the officials said.

They quoted Saito as saying despite its restrictions, Japan's aid is "not inferior" to that of the United States and Europe.

Yeltsin recently slammed Japan as "the only country which has not contributed a penny, a half a dollar, or even half a yen to Russia." Japanese political leader Shin Kanemaru retorted Tuesday that giving Russia aid "would be like throwing money in a ditch."

Saito implied Russia could become a full member of the Asia-Pacific region only if it fully normalizes its relations with Japan, the officials said.

Kunadze reportedly countered that it is "incorrect" to link an increased political and economic role for Russia in the region with fully normalizing relations with Japan.

Officials said Thursday's talks will deal mainly with documents to be issued during Yeltsin's visit, including a possible joint declaration.

They said Kunadze would likely meet with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who is expected to hold talks on the territorial issue with his Russian counterpart Andrei Kozyrev before Yeltsin's visit.

Government 'Considering' Emperor's PRC Visit

OW1407234392 Tokyo KYODO in English 2301 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—Japan is considering an official visit to China by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in October, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday, quoting government sources.

The YOMIURI said in a front-page article that the imperial couple's trip to China would last four or five days between October 22 and 27, during which the emperor and the empress would travel to Xian and Shanghai as well as Beijing.

The Japanese Government plans to announce a decision on the trip in early August following the July 26 elections for the House of Councillors, Japan's largest daily said.

Some conservative members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are strongly opposed to a visit to China by the imperial couple, which would be the first by a reigning Japanese monarch.

EPA Chief Leaves for Beijing on 5-Day Visit

OW1507023792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0147 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Chief Takeshi Noda left for Beijing Wednesday on a five-day visit to China for talks with Chinese leaders, officials said.

Noda will meet Premier Li Peng and other Chinese leaders to discuss China's economic situation and its reforms and open-door policy, the officials said.

He is scheduled to return home Sunday.

Osaka Business Mission To Visit Northeast China

OW1507074892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Osaka, July 15 KYODO—The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry will send a business mission to northeast China in late September, chamber officials said Wednesday.

The mission of about 20 members will study the economic situation in the region in connection with the chamber's proposal to create an economic zone around the Sea of Japan, the officials said.

They said the mission will visit Harbin, Changchun, Shenyang, Dalian, and other cities September 22 to 29 and meet with officials of local governments and enterprises.

Oil Venture To Be Formed With Saudi Arabia

OW1507102292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—A planned oil venture between Japan and Saudi Arabia will take shape in January next year, an oil industry leader said Wednesday.

Yasuoki Takeuchi, chairman of Nippon Oil Co., told a news conference that a joint feasibility study on the project is yet to be finished by parties involved in the project. The study is being conducted by four Japanese companies, including Nippon Oil, and the Saudi Government, he said.

"But we will set up a joint venture in January next year at the earliest," Takeuchi said.

The project is designed to build up-to-date refineries in Saudi Arabia and Yamaguchi Prefecture, Western Japan, which are to produce 300,000 and 450,000 barrels of oil per day, respectively.

The Japanese team, also involving Nippon Mining Co., Arabian Oil Co., and Caltex Oil Japan Ltd., a Japanese unit of the U.S. Caltex Petroleum Corp., has already set up a new firm here to manage the project.

A Nippon oil official said it has yet to be decided how the joint venture will be owned among the four Japanese participants.

Mission To Cambodia Submits Report to Miyazawa

OW1507094192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—A government fact-finding mission that visited Cambodia from July 2 to 7 submitted a report Wednesday to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa saying Japan should be prepared to respond rapidly to United Nations requests for Japanese peacekeepers.

The report said that preparations should get swiftly under way so that Japan could respond "effectively and in a timely manner" to anticipated UN calls for Japanese peacekeeping personnel.

The report follows last month's passage in the Diet of legislation allowing participation in UN peacekeeping operations by the Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

It proposed that Japan begin laying the groundwork for a large personnel presence in Cambodia by strengthening the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh by increasing the number of diplomats stationed there.

The report noted that the survey mission received wholehearted endorsement for Japanese peacekeeping participation from UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi, Supreme National Council (SNC) leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Phnom Penh government Premier Hun Sen, and noncommunist guerrilla faction leader Son Sann.

The 15-member team, which was led by Tatsuo Arima, chief councilor for external affairs at the prime minister's office, observed the peacekeeping activities of a number of units in UNTAC to see how Japan could best make its contributions.

The report outlined the various activities now being undertaken by UNTAC peacekeepers from 39 countries, but did not make specific recommendations in that regard.

It instead called for the government to send specialist missions to Cambodia to explore in greater depth whether and how Japan could participate in specific UNTAC activities.

Officials said the government plans to send a second fact-finding mission to Cambodia as early as August to look specifically into potential areas for SDF cooperation.

Miyazawa Cited on Peacekeepers, Khmer Rouge

OW1507060292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Maebashi, July 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed reluctance Wednesday to an early dispatch of Japanese peacekeepers to Cambodia without prior disarmament of the Khmer Rouge.

He made the remarks at a news conference during a stumping tour for the July 26 House of Councillors elections.

Miyazawa said the Khmer Rouge is presently objecting to disarming in the second phase of the United Nations scheme in Cambodia.

The prime minister asserted that this issue must be settled prior to the sending of Japanese peacekeeping missions to the country. The second-stage of the U.N. peacekeeping program aims to disarm—by 70 percent each—the four opposing factions in Cambodia by autumn.

Miyazawa also said concerned countries, and U.N. Chief in Cambodia Yasushi Akashi, should make efforts to restore cooperation among the four feuding factions, which make up a national reconciliation body, the Supreme National Council.

Miyazawa added Japan has been continuing diplomatic endeavors behind the scenes to reach cooperation among the four factions, but did not elaborate further on his statement.

On Japan's controversial peacekeeping cooperation law, enacted last month, Miyazawa ruled out any meetings with opposition party leaders on the issue at least for the time being.

Miyazawa on PKO, Russian Aid, Living Standard

OW1507103992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Maebashi, July 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Wednesday that Japan "is not opposed" to aiding Russia, citing the potential threat if the shaky republic were to collapse.

"If such a big nation collapses, it will pose significant trouble for the whole world, especially for Japan because we are neighbors," Miyazawa said.

He was addressing a campaign rally in Maebashi, 100 kilometers northwest of Tokyo, for two candidates of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party running in the July 26 House of Councillors election to represent a Gunma Prefecture constituency.

Miyazawa said leaders of seven major industrial countries generally concurred at their summit in Munich last week that Japan may be the only country able to provide substantial economic aid to Russia.

"That appears to be why the other leaders were so nice to me during the summit," he said.

But he said it would be hard to win the Japanese people's support for substantial funds until a Russian-Japanese territorial dispute is resolved.

Tokyo has so far refused to provide Moscow full-fledged aid, demanding the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

The dispute over what Japan calls its "northern territories" has prevented Japan from signing a peace treaty and normalizing relations with the Soviet Union, and now Russia.

Miyazawa expressed hope that Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will meet with his Russian counterpart to discuss the territorial dispute before Russian President Boris Yeltsin's planned September visit to Japan.

Watanabe, recovering from gallstone surgery, resumed partial duties at his Foreign Ministry offices Monday after a 43-day absence.

Touching on a law enacted last month to allow Japanese troops to join United Nations peacekeeping missions [PKO] abroad, Miyazawa said Japan should contribute to UN efforts to repatriate Cambodian refugees.

"This does not mean we are going to send Japanese children to war," Miyazawa said, adding that opposition parties are misrepresenting the law in "an insult of Japanese citizens."

The Social Democratic Party, the largest opposition group, and the Japanese Communist Party, which oppose the law, have promised to make it the centerpiece of the election campaign.

They say the law, which allows Japan to send ground troops abroad for the first time since World War II, violates the country's war- renouncing constitution and could lead to war.

Miyazawa also said his party hopes to improve the Japanese standard of living, enabling "average salaried workers" to buy houses for five times their yearly salary, reducing work hours, easing commuting problems, and expanding sewage facilities to serve 70 percent of buildings from the present 40 percent.

MITI Reports Industrial Production Decrease

OW1507075592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—Japan's industrial production in May fell 1.9 percent from the previous month on a seasonally adjusted basis, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Wednesday in a revised report.

The decline in output at factories and mines was the first in two months. Industrial production marked a seasonally adjusted 0.1 percent growth in April, after a six-month streak of monthly drops.

On an unadjusted basis, production fell 8.8 percent in May from a year earlier, posting an annual drop for the eighth straight month.

The ministry said it was the biggest yearly drop since the unadjusted 9.4 percent fall in July 1975, and the series of year-on-year declines was the longest in nearly 17 years, since the 20-month streak from May 1974 through December 1975.

Shipments declined in May for the third consecutive month, falling by a seasonally adjusted 1.4 percent from April.

On an unadjusted basis, shipments dropped 6.9 percent from a year earlier, for the sixth successive year-on-year fall.

May inventories increased for the second straight month, rising by a seasonally adjusted 0.4 percent from April.

They posted an unadjusted 5.5 percent rise from a year earlier, after a 6.4 percent growth in April.

Koichi Yoshimoto, chief of the ministry's Statistics Analysis Division, expressed concern over a delay in stock adjustment, saying the adjustment may take longer than initially expected.

Yoshimoto said stocks of consumer goods have piled up, with those of durable goods such as small passenger cars and air conditioners increasing by a seasonally adjusted 1.8 percent in May from the previous month.

He said although shipments have declined, it is necessary to carefully watch the movement in production because of predicted rises in output in June and July based on a survey conducted in early June.

North Korea

North-South 14 Jul Red Cross Contact Reported

SK1407143992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The fifth contact between the North and South Red Cross working delegation was held on 14 July in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom in connection with the exchange of home-visiting groups of the old parents and art troupes.

At the end of the contact, our side's delegation head said that before discussing the working issues at today's contact our side had once again called on the South side to rectify its wrong positions of shelving the implementation of the North-South agreement and of blocking improvement of North-South relations by using South-North mutual nuclear inspection as a pretext. It also called on the South to take measures on these positions that are acceptable to us and public opinion at home and abroad.

He also said that after accusing the South Korean authorities of turning the repatriation of the old man Yi In-mo, who was a Korean People's Army war correspondent, into a political bargaining chip, our side pressed the South side to explain the wrong stance of the South side's Red Cross which has joined forces with the South Korean authorities. He made it clear that unless the South side repatriates Yi In-mo before the exchange of the home-visiting groups as it had earlier publicly stated, there is the possibility that the South side would cause the exchange of home-visiting groups to be aborted even if working issues were agreed upon at the working contact.

At the contact, the South side, commenting on our side's pressing it to explain the nuclear ruckus and the repatriation of the old man Yi In-mo, said that the South had already given its answers at the Political Subcommittee and the Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee of high-level talks, thus they made inappropriate remarks in defense of the authorities' unjust position.

In response our side said: Given the South side's behavior, we cannot but be concerned about the future of the exchange of the home-visiting groups. Contrary to their words in the course of the contact, the South Korean authorities once they leave the contact have stated that unless somebody else's nuclear question is resolved, it would be difficult to make any substantial progress in South-North relations. Our side then pointed out that this proceeds from an intention to pursue a deliberate objective to cook up a pretext for worsening relations between the North and South instead of trying to improve them.

Up to now, our side has not even for a moment considered the exchange of home-visiting groups of old parents separately from the repatriation of old man Yi In-mo. Our side condemned the South side's remarks at today's contact saying they are a provocation to the opposing side and amount to a declaration of a breakup of the contact which our side gravely warned against.

After pointing out that the South side officially announced through the press that it is positively considering the issue of returning Yi In-mo to the DPRK and that it will return him to the DPRK prior to the work of exchange of home-visiting group, our side asked the South side why it now abruptly changes its stand.

The South side, taken by surprise by our side's logical argument, said that its speech at today's contact is not a declaration of a breakup on the issue and that the press indiscreetly made a false report about the authorities' official announcement on the issue of the return of Yi In-mo. It tried to place responsibility on the press.

After saying that the South side authorities regard the South side's reporters as liars, our side added that, judging from the South side's stand, it is trying to reject the work to exchange home-visiting groups. Our side repeatedly demanded that the South side reveal its clear stand. However, the South side avoided replying to our side's demand, making clumsy excuses.

Our side again stressed that as long as the South side constantly starts anti-Republic rows on the nuclear issue and as long as it does not return Yi In-mo to the DPRK prior to the exchange of home-visiting groups, the work of exchanging home-visiting groups will end in a breakup.

Discussing a working-level issue, our side stressed that the principle of solution of questions, which both sides should follow, is that first, both sides should be faithful to the points of agreement already reached; and second, both sides should realize the principle and purpose of exchanging home-visiting groups of elderly parents and art troupes.

Owing to our side's just claim, the South side was forced to say that it would withdraw some issues it raised, contrary to the points of agreement.

In sum, after once again clearly revealing our principled stand, our side urged the South side, saying that if it truly

intends to realize the work of home-visiting groups, it should carefully give a positive answer to the questions raised by our side at the next contact, and it should withdraw its unjust claims.

It was decided to hold the sixth round of working-level delegates contact on 20 July.

Reaction To Japanese, Western Nuclear Position

SK1507060892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Pyongyang, July 15 (KCNA)—A consultant of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, informing the South Korean authorities on July 13 of the "points of an agreement" of the leaders of the 7 Western countries that "relations" between the DPRK and 7 Western countries "cannot be improved" unless the "nuclear problem is settled", claimed that it was confirmed at Munich talks that 7 Western countries expressed their will to "support" the stand of South Korea toward nuclear problem, a Seoul-based report said.

This is an act of instigating the South Korean authorities to confrontation with us and laying an obstacle to the solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula.

As for the failure to solve the nuclear problem in Korea, it is entirely attributable to the fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities are persistently rejecting the North's demand for an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea and unreasonably asserting what is not mentioned in the points of the agreement between the North and the South.

This notwithstanding, the Japanese authorities are favouring the unreasonable treacherous stand of the South Korean authorities who, dependent on foreign forces, are avoiding the overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea, while talking about "denuclearization". This tells that they do not want the solution of the nuclear problem and progress of North-South dialogue but throw a wet blanket over it.

Our position is to resolve the nuclear problem and the question of improving the relations with Western countries from an independent stand and not to solve them, even yielding to other's pressure and allowing the sovereignty to be infringed upon by others.

This is the DPRK principled stand and a consistent policy recognized by the world.

If it is true that 7 Western countries, ignoring it, try to put an unjust pressure on the DPRK over the nuclear problem, this will be a wanton interference in the internal affairs of the sovereign state.

Japan's Comfort Girl Investigation Criticized

SK1507072292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0021 GMT 14 Jul 92

[NODONG SINMUN 14 July commentary: "One Cannot Evade Responsibility for a Crime"]

[Text] The Japanese Government announced the results of its investigation into the issue of comfort girls who served the army.

The Japanese Government authorities have concealed the issue of comfort girls—an enormous grave and cruel crime—behind a black curtain for a half century. Since public opinion sternly denouncing this crime has erupted at home and abroad, the Japanese Government was pressured into investigating the so-called truth of the issue.

However, the results of the so-called investigation are extremely preposterous and do not reflect even slightly the crimes the Japanese imperialists committed in the past.

A careful review of the results of the investigation gives a strong impression that they are pursuing insidious goals.

In the so-called results of the investigation, the Japanese Government ignored the responsibility of the old Japanese Government on the issue of comfort girls who served the army. Offering Korean girls as sexual slaves to the Imperial Army after forcibly dragging them away was a big, organized crime which was plotted by the Japanese Government and was executed by the military. Evidence and actual materials have proven this.

According to the KYODO News Agency, a telegram from the commander of the Japanese Army stationed in Taiwan to the prime minister on 12 March 1942 was discovered. One can conclude from this telegram that Prime Minister Tojo Hideki took part in dispatching a manager for comfort girls camp.

Thus, more than just one or two pieces of information and material prove that the emperor and the government took part in the comfort girls operation.

The Japanese foreign minister said he had no choice but to admit the participation of the state in the comfort girls operation at that time. The chief cabinet secretary also recognized the state's responsibility.

When the comfort girls issue was raised, the Japanese Government said the military and government had not participated. However, since undeniable information and materials have surfaced one by one, the Japanese Government recognized the involvement of the former government and military in the operation. After the current investigation, though, the Japanese Government attempted to reverse its position. In other words, the Japanese Government returned to its original position of denying its involvement.

In short, through the so-called results of the investigation, the Japanese authorities pretended it is sincere

about resolving the comfort girls issue. They are, however, actually attempting to evade their responsibility for this issue. Indeed, we cannot help but regard this as the tactics of someone who is skilled in cunning.

Ever since the first round of full-dress talks between the DPRK and Japanese Governments for normalization of diplomatic relations, we raised the comfort girls issue and strongly demanded Japan's sincere apology and compensation.

However, as the announcement of the results of the current investigation shows, the Japanese Government merely said that 127 pieces of material have been confirmed to prove the involvement of the old Japanese army during World War II, but it could not confirm how many and through what method the Korean girls were drafted as comfort girls to serve the army. Thus, the Japanese Government did not reveal all aspects and correct figures.

One cannot find the slightest sincerity and faith in the Japanese Government 's attitude toward resolving the comfort girls issue.

The Japanese imperialists' forcible taking of Korean women and making them serve the army as sexual slaves was not natural; it was an organized crime based on a series of regulations, including the regulation on recruitment and use of comfort girls for the army.

This notwithstanding, the Japanese authorities said they could not confirm how many girls and by what method they were taken away as comfort girls. This is a transparent attempt to deceive the people.

Yoshida Seiji, one of the people responsible for forcibly taking comfort girls away, said that the number of comfort girls forcibly recruited under his personal supervision reached more than 1,000, thus testifying that they were virtually arrested.

It is likely that the Japanese authorities feared that the number of comfort girls who were forcibly taken away was enormous and did not want the truth made known to the entire world, and thus they did not even try to refer to testimony, documents, and material which had already been made public.

Those who intentionally conceal a crime can plot anything. However, the plot worked out by the Japanese Government authorities in the so-called results of the investigation is indeed clumsy and poor.

Judging from everything, it appears that the Japanese authorities did not intend to sincerely investigate the truth about the comfort girls issue. Clearly, they merely conducted a nominal investigation, being afraid of public opinion, and attempted to conceal the truth.

If one wants trust, one should show sincerity. However, to our regret, the so-called results of the Japanese Government's investigation did not show even the slightest sincerity. It is no accident that social circles and various publications in Japan criticized the Japanese Government's investigation as insufficient. The Japanese authorities have repeatedly said that they apologize and have examined their role in the comfort girls issue. However, as the current investigation shows, their remarks were merely empty words.

The results of the investigation have again exposed to the world the kind of morality, conscience, and reason the Japanese authorities have.

The Japanese authorities cannot conceal the barbaric crimes of the Japanese imperialists in forcibly taking away nearly 200,000 Korean women and committing unheard-of sex violations against them.

The Japanese authorities must reveal all of the heinous atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialists against Korean women. They must apologize sincerely and make due compensation for this.

Danish Communist Forum Leader on Reunification

SK1507044492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Pyongyang, July 15 (KCNA)—Betty Frydensbjerg Carlsson, chairman of the Communist Forum of Denmark, expressed support to the Korean people's cause of national reunification, when she met the DPRK ambassador who paid her a farewell call on July 8.

The Communist Forum fully supports the consistent policy of the DPRK for reunifying the country through a confederacy on the principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, she said.

For the present, she further said, the Communist Forum will actively wage a campaign demanding that the United States immediately withdraw its troops from South Korea and accept an overall inspection of its nuclear military bases in South Korea.

The Korean people can firmly defend the banner of socialism and confidently advance along its road despite the fast-changing situation because of the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, she stressed.

CPC Decrees Conferred on Various Figures

SK1407153592

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of the DPRK Central People's Committee [CPC] decrees read on Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean during June.

An unsigned CPC decree dated 3 June: "Kim Il-song Order" was conferred on Ship Mangyongbong of Marine General Bureau in the Ministry of Marine Transportation, for overfulfilling the national economic assignments and greatly enhancing the external dignity of the

country. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Jun 92)

An unsigned CPC decree dated 3 June: "Kim Il-song Order" was conferred on Mangyongdae disabled soldiers' fountain pen plant, for contributing to providing conveniences to people and developing local industry. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 16 Jun 92)

An unsigned CPC decree dated 16 June: "Kim Il-song Order" was conferred on 15 April Literature Production, for greatly contributing to indoctrinating the party members and the working people in a revolutionary manner by producing a large number of revolutionary novels and other good literary works. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 20 Jun 92)

CPC decree dated 24 June and signed by DPRK President Kim Il-song: "Title of the Army-People Unity" was conferred on Changpung County, Kaesong City, for setting an example in bringing into full play the traditional laudable custom of the army-people unity. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Jun 92)

CPC decree dated 24 June and signed by DPRK President Kim Il-song was issued on "decision to establish order and medal to commemorate capital construction" and "decision to approve regulations of the design and presentation of order and medal to commemorate capital construction" for glorifying labor feat and struggle achievements of capital builders. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 25 Jun 92)

An unsigned and undated CPC decree: "Title of Meritorious Reporter and Labor Order" were conferred on Comrade Song Mu-kyong, commentator of an international department in NODONG SINMUN, for greatly contributing to indoctrinating the party members and working people in a revolutionary manner and to inspiring them to carry out the party's policy. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 25 Jun 92)

CPC decree dated 17 June and signed by DPRK President Kim Il-song: "Title of Meritorious Sports County" was conferred on Kosan County, Kangwon Province, for setting an example in training students and working people for labor and national defense. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 26 Jun 92)

An unsigned and undated CPC decree: "Title of Meritorious Nurse and Labor Order" were conferred on Comrade Son Suk-chin, nurse of People's Hospital in Kosan County, Kangwon Province, for greatly contributing to protecting and improving the health and life of the working people." (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 26 Jun 92)

CPC decree dated 17 June and signed by DPRK President Kim Il-song: "Title of Honor" was conferred on construction station of the Pyongyang Municipal Construction General Bureau, for contributing to accelerating socialist economic construction and to improving the people's life. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Jun 92)

CPC decree dated 24 June and signed by DPRK President Kim Il-song: "Title of Labor Hero, Gold Medal, Hammer and Sickle, and Order of National Flag First Class " were conferred on Comrade Kim Chong-suk, instructor of the People's Grand Study Hall, for greatly contributing to national socialist economic construction and to scientific and technological development. (Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Jun 92)

'New Bills' Minted, Circulated Beginning 15 Jul

SK1407230492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 14 Jul 92

[DPRK Central People's Committee decree on minting new bills issued on 14 July]

[Text] Consolidating the country's monetary system and having an uninterrupted circulation of money is the consistent policy of our party and government. They are also important in rapidly developing the people's economy in a planned way and systematically improving the people's standard of living.

For approximately 10 years, since 1979, when the currency was reformed under the correct leadership of our party and government, our people, under the uplifted revolutionary banner of the chuche idea, have accelerated the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—and thus have made great accomplishments in all fields of socialist construction. Single-minded unity between the party and people has been further consolidated into something invincible; many monumental edifices that demonstrate the chuche Korea's might have been built; and the chuche-oriented development, modernization, and scientization of the people's economy has been vigorously pushed ahead. Thus, a socialist material and technological basis has been further consolidated.

Because of the superiority of the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style and the might of the socialist self-reliant national economy, all of the people in our country are free from any trouble in life and are equally well off. The state guarantees our people all conditions for material and cultural lives and they are enjoying independent and creative lives to their heart's content.

Under circumstances in which new achievements have been accomplished in socialist construction and in which the country's economic might has been further strengthened, our party and government have enforced momentous policies to increase living allowances for all workers,

technicians, and office workers; to increase the cooperative peasants' income; and to give the people more state benefits. Today, we have the important task of further consolidating money circulation in step with the new reality that, as a result of the vigorous acceleration of socialist construction, the workers' income has increased significantly and the scale of the country's money circulation has been expanding.

To strengthen the country's independent monetary system and have the money circulate more smoothly in step with the realistic demands of socialist construction, the DPRK Central People's Committee has decided:

1. Hundred-, 50-, 10-, five-, and one-won Central Bank bills will be minted and circulated beginning 15 July 1992. They will be called new bills hereafter.

2. New bills will be the only means of payments beginning 15 July 1992, and 100-, 50-, 10-, five-, and one-won Central Bank bills that have been used since they were minted in 1979 will be invalid. They will now be called old bills. However, old bills can be used until 16 July 1992 to pay only for grain supplies and other dire necessities for people's ordinary lives. The one-won, 50-chon, 10- chon, five-chon, and one-chon coins that have been used will continue to be circulated.

3. Old bills will be exchanged with new bills for six days, from 15 to 20 July 1992.

1) Old bills will be exchanged with new bills on a one-on-one basis.

2) To have the money circulate more smoothly and in order to satisfactorily guarantee the people's imminent payments, the limits of the exchange of bills will be set during the period of the exchange of bills; old bills will be exchanged with new bills within these limits; and old bills that exceed these limits will be deposited in central banking organizations and will be withdrawn according to separate rules.

3) Old bills held by state institutions, enterprises, and social cooperative organizations as of 14 July 1992 must be deposited in banking organizations by 17 July 1992, and as much as is needed will be withdrawn in new bills.

4. State institutions, enterprises, socialist cooperative organizations, and citizens will be subject to legal punishment if they circulate old bills illegally or violate regulations and orders concerning the exchange of old bills with new bills.

5. The Administration Council will map out administrative and procedural measures to implement this decree correctly.

DPRK Central People's Committee

14 July 1992, Pyongyang

Seaweed Production Increases in 1992

SK1507104392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Pyongyang, July 15 (KCNA)—Sea culture is successful in Korea this year. The seaweeds picked these days showed a growth of 6,000 tons above those at the same time last year, of which tangle 4,500 tons.

The aquacultural stations in North Hamgyong Province have expanded the area under tangle and undaria pinnatifida 80 percent and increased the proportion of transplanting 60 percent, thus registering a big success in production.

The aquacultural stations in North Hwanghae Province are gathering in more seaweeds than last year. They have arranged summer seedling grounds with scrupulous care, did sowing qualitatively, concretely surveyed the nutritive conditions of seaweeds and well regulated the depths of the water and nutritive control to suit them.

South Korea

DPRK Vice Premier To Visit Seoul 19-25 Jul

SK1507093692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (YONHAP)—North Korean Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon is to visit Seoul on Sunday [19 July] at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu.

Kim will be accompanied by nine government officials and will stay until July 25.

During the visit, the North Koreans will contact government and business officials to exchange opinions on ways to promote economic exchanges based on the basic South-North agreement.

Kim will pay a courtesy call on President No Tae-u to personally inform the president of the North's posture toward economic cooperation and other aspects of inter-Korean relations.

The visit is expected to significantly contribute to the resolution of issues such as nuclear inspections and family reunions.

Kim and his party will spend three nights in Seoul, two in Kyongju and one in Pusan, inspecting industrial, marketing and tourism facilities. Among the facilities will be those of the Daewoo, Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar and Yukong business groups.

Their visit was first suggested by the North and working-level officials discussed an itinerary in talks in Beijing in the middle of last month.

"Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon's visit is significant in that it will help lay groundwork for mutual trust by enabling senior North Korean economic officials to

observe first-hand our reality prior to the promotion of economic exchanges and cooperation based on the basic South-North agreement," a Seoul official said.

Since the visit was to observe the South's economic situation, there would be talks on principles rather than detailed economic cooperation, he said.

"I understand there will be no discussion of the nuclear issue, one of the hottest questions pending between the two sides," he said.

Another official said that Kim's visit would in effect mark the beginning of inter-Korean economic cooperation.

"The North's decision to send a high-ranking official like Kim to the South at this time, when the nuclear issue remains a stumbling block to inter-Korean exchanges, is suggestive of a lot in the future of South-North relations," he said.

The nine officials accompanying Kim include two vice minister-level economic officials.

Visit 'Purely for Economic Purposes'

SK1507093192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0854 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korean Deputy Prime Minister Kim Tal-hyon's visit to South Korea next week does not reflect any fundamental change in Seoul's position that Pyongyang must solve the nuclear question before there is any real progress in inter-Korean relations, officials here said Wednesday [15 July].

"Kim and his delegation comes to South Korea to see industrial sites, purely for economic purposes," one government official said. "There is a vast difference between an economic tour and actual economic cooperation."

Kim, concurrently chairman of the North Korean External Economic Commission, will arrive on Sunday [19 July]. His visit, itinerary and Seoul's position on accepting his visit are to be formally announced on Thursday.

South Korea earlier this month sent a clear message to North Korea that there would be no substantial progress in inter-Korean relations, including economic cooperation, without full resolution of North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development.

When news broke that Kim was coming to South Korea, immediate speculation arose that Seoul had changed this basic policy.

"Just think of this as a carrot in our carrot-and-stick policy toward North Korea," a Foreign Ministry official said.

He said Kim's visit was completely unrelated to the ongoing inter-Korean nuclear negotiations.

He denied that Kim's delegation included members of the inter-Korean nuclear negotiations.

"If there is to be any connection between Kim's visit and the nuclear talks, it will be that the visit will send a message to the North Korean leadership that it should work for an early solution to the nuclear problem so that it can start receiving economic aid from South Korea and other countries," he said.

The government had already briefed the Japanese and U.S. Embassies on Kim's visit, the officials said, emphasizing that it would be purely an economic mission.

Delegation Members Listed

SK1507131192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1252 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (YONHAP)—Here is the list of the nine North Korean officials who will accompany Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon to his planned week-long visit to Seoul beginning July 19.

—Chong Un-op, age 51, born in Hoechang, South Pyongan Province: studied at Kim Chaek University of Technology: president of Samchonri Co. of the Ministry of Foreign Trade

—Yi Song-tae, 54, born in Kilju, North Hamkyong Province: studied at University of International Affairs: vice foreign trade minister, trade councilor in China

—Nim Tae-tok, 46, born in Pyongyang: studied at Kim Il-song University: chief secretary of Committee for External Economic Cooperation, attends Seoul meeting of Tumen River project

—Kim Tong-kuk, 50, born in Hesan, South Hamkyong Province: studied at Kim Il-song University: State Council responsible guidance member, advisor to northern delegation to inter-Korean table tennis talks of 1991

—Kim Ung-yon, 42, born in Kosong, Kangwon Province: studied at Hamhung University of Chemical Engineering: secretary to Administration Council deputy premier

—Hwang Po-hyok, 49, born in Pongsan, Hwanghae Province: studied at University of International Affairs: deputy bureau director of Ministry of Foreign Trade

—Ko Myong-chol, 58, born in Pyongyang: studied at Kim Il-song University: editorial writer of Central News Agency, covers Seoul meetings of prime ministers talks

—Yi Chun-kyong, 49, born in Chongju, North Pyongan Province: studied at Pyongyang University of Dramaturgy and Cinematics: cameraman of North Korean Central Television, covers prime ministers meetings

—Yi Yong-nim, 45, born in Sinpa, South Hamkyong Province: studied at Kim Chaek University of Technology: responsible engineer of Pyongyang Telegraph and Telephone Bureau, an attendant for the northern delegation to prime ministers talks.

No Tae-u Cited on South-North Summit Conditions

SK1507095592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u said Wednesday [15 July] that he would not seek a summit with North Korean President Kim Il-song until everything was ready.

No, in an interview with the INCHON ILBO, said that the sticky issue of inter-Korean nuclear inspections should be resolved in order to build trust between the two Koreas.

He told the local daily that he would present ways for Seoul to contribute to the new world order and facilitate inter-Korean relations and unification in an address to the United Nations General Asssembly in September, and would discuss matters of mutual concern with leaders of major countries.

"It is difficult to predict the political situation for next year because the presidential election is around the corner, but I don't expect any abrupt change since democracy has already taken firm root," No viewed.

The fact that all presidential candidates were civilians was a good example of the headway that democracy had made, the president said.

No had the exclusive interview with the INCHON ILBO on the fourth anniversary of the paper's founding.

Country To Participate in Peacekeeping Operations

SK1507092592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea decided Wednesday [15 July] to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO) but withheld a decision on dispatching infantrymen, government officials said.

The Foreign and Defense Ministries, the Presidential Office and the Agency for National Security Planning reached a formal consensus at an afternoon meeting to reply to the United Nations on PKO participation before the U.N. General Assembly opens Sept. 15, the officials said.

Korea will list contributions as military observers, military medical teams and support staff, they said.

A final decision on whether to send infantry units will be made after further consultation among the related ministries, discussion with political parties and gathering public opinion.

The Defense Ministry proposed sending a 730-member PKO mission including 540 soldiers, but other government offices reportedly recommended delaying the decision.

The United Nations has asked all of its members to fill in questionnaires on their PKO contributions.

"What we list in the questionnaire is not legally binding in any way. Even if we exclude the dispatch of foot soldiers in this questionnaire, we can update it when we are ready," a Foreign Ministry official said.

Iraqi Ambassador Seeks Closer Ties

SK1407141592 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 14 Jul 92 p 21

[Report on interview with Iraqi Ambassador to ROK Burhan Ghazal by reporter Ko Chong-won, date and place of the interview not given]

[Text] Iraqi Amabassador to the ROK Burhan Ghazal will host a banquet at 1200 on 16 July at the Hotel Shilla in Seoul to commemorate the anniversary of the Iraq's Baath revolution.

Ambassador Burhan Ghazal said: I would like to commemorate, together with the ROK people, the Baath revolution of 17 July 1968, which saved Iraq from a state of backwardness, and I hope that friendly relations of the two countries will continue.

Ambassador Burhan Ghazal said: Through the Baath revolution Iraq surmounted backwardness in various fields, including education and public health. This revolution proceeded from an ideal that attaches great importance to freedom, self-determination, and equality.

Ambassador Burhan Ghazal also said: The Baath revolution pursues the establishment of a single state of the Arab nation, and President Saddam Husayn is now exerting efforts to regain Iraq's past glory and prosperity.

As to the recent report of an alleged coup plot in Iraq, the ambassador flatly denied the report, saying: "It was a false report fabricated by Western news media in a bid to create internal unrest and trepidation in Iraq."

Regarding Iraq's confiscation last June of the equipment that our construction companies had left in Iraq, the ambassador said, "I will make every possible effort to ensure that this problem is solved at the earliest possible date, to the satisfaction of the two countries."

Ambassador Burhan Ghazal said Iraq is now in a difficult situation because of the economic sanctions against it. He said: Not only daily necessities, but also medical supplies and food are in very short supply. According to statistics, from January to March 1992, approximately 40,000 people died due to the lack of medical supplies. If the economic sanctions continue, more people will be victimized.

The ambassador said there have been almost no economic exchanges between the ROK and Iraq since the economic sanctions against Iraq began in August 1990.

The ambassador said: If the economic sanctions are lifted, however, bilateral relations will develop in a way that will benefit both ountries, as in the past.

The ambassador said the rehabilitation projects on roads, bridges, and plants are being vigorously accelerated in Iraq despite current difficulties. He expressed the hope that the ROK will participate in the rehabilitation projects.

The ambassador said, "Iraq will rebuild all destroyed facilities in a near future, and we will never forget those who have assisted our country, which has faced a difficult situation."

South America Gives 'Cold Shoulder' to Mission

SK1507041492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] South American nations gave the cold shoulder to a North Korean delegation which visited the countries with improvement in economic and diplomatic relations in mind, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The four-member delegation, led by Vice Foreign Trade Minister Yi Song-nok, kicked off its Latin American tour June 26 in Brazil, traveling to Sao Paulo, Brazilia and Rio de Janeiro, and then went to Colombia, they said.

The North Koreans chiefly discussed economic issues while in Sao Paulo, such as bartering rice, ginseng and magnesium drinks for Brazilian sugar, metallic ores and steel.

In Brazilia, they said that they were ready to boost economic ties with the Latin American country and proposed that they exchange trade representatives, according to the sources.

The Brazilian side apparently postponed an answer on the trade representative offices, saying they would rather wait until trade volume grows beyond $4.6 million recorded last year.

Brazil did, however, invited North Korea to attend the general assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, opening in Brazilia in November.

ROK-Russia Container Trade Increases

SK1507042192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0212 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (YONHAP)—Korea-Russia seaborne trade soared 182.2 percent to 9,368 TEU (20-foot equivalent units) in the first half of the year over the same period last year, the Korea Maritime and Port Administration [KMPA] said Wednesday [15 July].

The dramatic increase was attributable to Korea's rendering of loans to Russia, a KMPA official said. Total container trade between Korea and Russia amounted to 14,471 TEU in the first half, 13.3 percent up from the same period last year.

The first six months of 1992 saw exports jump 292.4 percent from a year earlier to 8,293 TEU, with the sales tied with Korean loans accounting for 92.5 percent, he said.

In contrast, imports shrunk 11 percent to 1,075 TEU from 1,207 TEU in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, container traffic on the Trans-Siberia Railroad (TSR) to European and Middle Eastern regions plunged to 5,103 TEU, 45.1 percent off from last year.

TSR export traffic dropped 46.3 percent to 2,842 TEU and imports fell 45.1 percent to 2,261 TEU during the period.

Last year, the freight transported via the TSR increased temporarily due to the Gulf war, the KMPA official said.

EC To Decide on Extending Preference Status

SK1507034192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry denied Wednesday [15 July] reports that the European Community (EC) will take away Korea's benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

"We have looked into the newspaper reports and confirmed that the EC Commission has not made such a decision," Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Sung said.

Benefits include lower tariffs for products from countries with GSP status. European electronics firms have long urged the EC Commission to take away the benefits, accusing Korean companies of dumping their products.

Korea's GSP ends at the end of next year. It asked during a bilateral trade monitoring meeting here last week to extend the status to after 1993.

Measures To Conserve Oil in North Reported

SK1507121792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[YONHAP report from Tokyo]

[Text] Because of a sharp decrease of petroleum imports from Russia, North Korea has seriously suffered a petroleum shortage. TONGIL ILBO, published in Japan, today reports that according to the party Secretary Kim Chong-il's recent directive, an order was issued in Pyongyang city banning the operation of vehicles one day per week and the cessation of gasoline three days per week. TONGIL ILBO reports this by quoting a Japanese-resident Korean belonging to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan who returned to Japan after visiting Pyongyang city, Kim Chaek city, and other cities for one month.

According to the paper, because settlement of trade with Russia is based on international prices and hard currency exchange, North Korea's imports of petroleum have greatly decreased. Accordingly, North Korea is suffereing from a petroleum shortage. Thus, in mid-June, according to Kim Chong-il's directive, the order banning the operation of vehicles in Pyongyang city was imposed. According to the order no plant or enterprise

can use buses or trucks on Saturday. Thus, the rate of industrial operation is greatly declining.

Speaker Admits Funds Came From Land Speculation

SK1507041592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu was "candid" enough to admit that most of his political funds derived from land speculation.

Answering questions at a debate session sponsored by the Kwanhun Club Monday [13 July] night, Pak said he spent just 500,000 won on 10,000 pyong (33,000 sq. meters) of land in Chamsil, southeastern Seoul, in 1966. He said he has now disposed of most of the land to finance his election campaigns.

The eight-term lawmaker from Taegu, however, did not say how much the land still in his possession fetches.

Pak also said he has told aides to donate 380,000 pyong (1.25 million sq. meters) of wooded land in his hometown to a charity foundation to help defuse criticism about his investment in land.

On other topics, the speaker said he has respect for opposition leader Kim Tae-chung. He said he and ruling party presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam have been "friends" for the past 30 years or so.

Surprisingly, Pak did not criticize United People's Party leader Chong Chu-yong for his recent controversial remarks that a Communist party should not be outlawed in South Korea.

Land Fraud Becomes 'Hot Political Potato'

SK1507041692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has turned aggressive in bringing to light truth about the fraudulent sale of the land of the Army Intelligence Command site by invoking the parliamentary right to investigate if it is necessary.

However, the party dismissed the opposition camp's allegation that some influential figures of the ruling party and the administration are behind the scam, which has rocked the financial circle.

In a meeting of lawmakers in charge of floor strategies, DLP executive chairman and presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam asserted that the party is clean. There is no political force behind the swindlers, he added, asking party lawmakers to exert more efforts to induce the opposition camp into the National Assembly.

The National Assembly has remained idle since its inauguration on June 29.

Kim said the ruling party will actively engage in the work of getting down to the truths of the fraudulent sale by enlisting all the possible methods including the invocation of the parliamentary investigation rights.

The opposition camp has been drumming up public supports for the use of the parliamentary investigation rights, to which the ruling party initially reacted negatively.

Executive chairman Kim said in the same meeting that the elections of mayors and provincial governors within this year, which the opposition camp persistently demands as condition for the normalization of the National Assembly, is impossible. The local elections are to have been held by the end of June under the law. However, President No Tae-u unilaterally put off the elections until after 1995, citing lot of adverse effects spinning from too many general elections. There were parliamentary elections in March and presidential elections are in store for December.

However, he said that he is ready to cooperate with the opposition camp in the work of rewriting the Presidential Election Law to plug all the conceivable loopholes.

Meanwhile, the opposition Democratic Party [DP] determined in its executive council meeting that such a wholesale fraud could not be committed without the help of power.

From this vein, the opposition party argued that a sizable portion of the money may have flowed into the ruling camp to finance campaigns for the March 24 elections of lawmakers.

The opposition DP members visited the Seoul District Prosecution and inquired of the progress of the investigation of the 70 billion-won land deal case and demanded a probe of former defense minister Yi Chong-ku to determine if he is implicated in any part in the scam.

The opposition United People's Party sent open questions to the Agency for National Security Planning regarding how Kim Yong-ho, former section chief of the Defense Ministry, was brought back to Seoul from China. South Korea has no diplomatic ties with China where Kim fled when the scam deal began to unfold.

The land deal has turned into a hot political potato.

The opposition DP led by Kim Tae-chung, who is also presidential candidate of his party, is pressing hard upon the administration and the ruling camp. If any members of the ruling party or the No's administration are involved, DP members said the coming presidential elections in December are as good as having been won.

The Defense Ministry said it had once decided to sell the land of the intelligence command but the plan was called off in May last year when Yi Chong-ku was defense minister. The ministry is clean as far as the land deal is concerned. If any contract was made, it is bogus, the ministry argued.

However, the ministry has found itself under suspicion because of the role of Kim Yong-ho in the scam. Kim forged a document purported to be selling the land to a group of brokers, from whom the First Life Insurance Co. bought the land.

As expression of purchase intent, the insurance company deposited 24 billion won at the Citizens National Bank. However, the money was withdrawn without the knowledge of the depositor firm by a senior bank clerk who was with the fraud ring, according to the provisional investigation results.

Besides the money, the life insurance firm wrote commercial bills for about 47 billion won in payment for the land. The land brokers, who were arrested, already discounted a considerable portion of the bills at private money market.

Land Scam Probe Results Announcement Delayed

SK1507064392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] In the face of negative public reactions to the prosecution's earlier move to conclude the probe into the multibillion-won real estate scam today or tomorrow, the Seoul prosecution put off announcing its investigation results until this week or early next week.

The prosecution said yesterday that it will summon Ha Yong-ki, president of the First Life Insurance Co. today to investigate a secret fund for the purchase of some controversial land used by Army Intelligence Command.

Ha has persistently denied prior knowledge of forming the fund.

The prosecution, however, said that it will arrest Ha on charges of mis-appropriation of the money if he is found guilty.

The prosecution also said that it will reinvestigate Pak Nam-kyu, owner of the insurance company and president of the Choyang Shipping Co. to see if he also knew of the purchase of the land. Cho is hospitalized in the Seoul National University Hospital.

Prosecutors have reportedly secured evidence implicating Ha in the financial scandal from the very beginning in the course of cross-examining other suspects. Ha is suspected of having conspired to defraud some 3 billion won in collaboration with Chong Kun-chong, a key suspect in the scam now under arrest, according to a prosecution source.

The prosecution has instructed all law enforcement officers nationwide to search for four other suspects still at large.

The turnaround in the investigation came after widespread public criticisms, suspicions and speculations about the multibillion won real estate scam compelled the prosecution to probe deeper into the scam which rocked the nation's financial markets and tarnished the image of the government.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry said yesterday that it planned in 1991 to sell the controversial Army Intelligence Command land in southern Seoul at 88.1 billion won over a three-year period.

Opposition Leaders Meet; Results Reported

SK1407125392 Seoul YONHAP in English 1218 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 14 (YONHAP)—Two opposition leaders—Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party and Chong Chu-yong of the Unification National Party [UPP]—agreed Tuesday [14 July] evening to beef up their cooperative ties to push through local elections within the year.

At the meeting held at the Yuksam Building on Yoido, the two leaders further agreed to take joint steps over floor strategies.

The Kim-Chong meeting was also attended by three senior party officials and a spokesman from each side.

Sources said that at the meeting Kim suggested that the two parties boycott the National Assembly unless the ruling camp promises the local elections within the year.

Chong, on the other hand, wanted that they attend the assembly if only to launch an assembly-level probe into the financial scandal involving the land of the Army Intelligence Command.

At the end, Chong agreed to shelve his party's unilateral return to the National Assembly for the time being for the sake of opposition cooperation.

Kim and Chong, nevertheless, decided to act on the bills asking for parliamentary approval of the appointment of Choe Chong-yong as a supreme court justice and Kim Yong-chun as chairman of the board of audit and inspection.

The assembly thus is likely to resume this week at the earliest.

On the question of the land scam, Kim called for a joint DP-NUP [UPP] investigation into the scandal while Chong favored separate probes before a joint ruling-opposition investigation is launched at the assembly.

In this connection, Chong proposed a meeting among the heads of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the two opposition parties.

But, Kim rejected the suggested meeting, contending, "if a meeting of the heads of the three parties is going to be held, the president and DLP executive chairman Kim Yong-sam should basically change their posture (over the local election issue)."

DLP Reacts To Meeting

SK1507102592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0818 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (YONHAP)—Three political parties went back to the drawing board Wednesday [13 July] after leaders of two opposition parties failed in negotiations Tuesday night to forge a common front on normalization of the National Assembly.

In the center of the controversy is the timing of local elections for provincial governors and mayors, which has held up the normal operation of the National Assembly since its inauguration two weeks ago.

The largest opposition Democratic Party [DP] refuses to cooperate with the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] in its efforts to restore normalcy to the National Assembly unless the DLP and the government agree to hold the local elections this year.

Citing the economic burden on the nation, the DLP unilaterally postponed the local elections beyond 1992.

The DP, on the other hand, insists that the local elections be held this year in order to insure a clean and fair presidential election, scheduled for December. Standing somewhat in between them is the minor opposition Unification National Party [UNP] [United People's Party] led by Chong Chu-yong.

In a move aimed at putting more pressure on the ruling party, Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party held a meeting with Chong Tuesday night to persuade him to take concerted steps on the local election issue and consequently on the normalization of the National Assembly.

But Chong was reported to have told Kim that his party was prepared to return to the National Assembly—as early as next week—to deal with pressing issues, including a possible parliamentary investigation into the multibillion won land scam involving plots owned by the army intelligence command.

The ruling party, believing that momentum has swung in its favor, decided to actively work on both opposition parties and induce them to attend the Assembly through various official and informal meetings of floor leaders and senior party members.

Moreover, the DLP has decided to inform the Unification National Party of its willingness to accomodate a meeting between Kim Yong-sam, DLP executive chairman, and Chong Chu-yong if the UNP leader so desires, party officials said.

Chong has reportedly decided to seek a meeting of top leaders of the three parties. If it is not feasible, sources said, Chong would like to meet Kim Yong-sam alone.

The ruling party will also urge the DP to attend the National Assembly even if the UNP starts to take part in the Assembly proceedings. But in a conference of secretaries general of the three parties, to be held Thursday, the Democratic Party is expected to reiterate its position on the local elections, heralding a continuing deadlock for the National Assembly for the time being.

Meanwhile, Pak Hui-tae, DLP spokesman, expressed disappointment over the failure of the Kim-Chong meeting and said the ruling party had expected a positive result from the talks.

The result, however, was nothing more than disappointment, both to the party and the people, Pak said.

"They have earned the indignation of the people," he added.

The ruling party, he said, was prepared to consider any proposals the opposition parties made within the framework of the parliamentary law.

If lawmakers continued to delay the normalization of the Assembly, not only their parties but also the entire political circle could not escape the people's condemnation, he said.

Kim Tae-chung 'Elated' About Rise in Ratings

SK1507041392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung, the presidential candidate of the main opposition Democratic Party [DP], seems elated about his recent rise in ratings and is thus likely to continue a hard-line stance toward the ruling camp.

Yu Chong-kun, chairman of the party's public relations committee, said yesterday that the popularity of Kim Tae-chung's archrival, ruling party presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam, edged up from 27.5 percent in April to 30.1 percent this month, according to the results of an opinion poll that the DP conducted.

In contrast, Yu said Kim Tae-chung's ratings jumped from 18.2 percent to 26.6 percent during the same period. Yu did not say what was responsible for the rise.

Political observers said that the DP would continue a get-tough stance toward the ruling party with regard to the local council election and the latest land scandal.

Meanwhile, Kim Tae-chung Monday [13 July] lashed out at Kim Yong-sam for his stiff opposition to holding local elections within this year.

The DP leader contended that the DLP presidential nominee appears stronger in his opposition to early local elections than President No Tae-u.

The life-long opposition leader threatened to boycott the presidential election expected in mid-December unless his demand was met.

Burma

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Leaves Rangoon

BK1407141592 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Koji Kakizawa and a two-member delegation, who is currently in Rangoon at the invitation of Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, left Rangoon by air this afternoon.

The parliamentary vice foreign minister and delegation were seen off at Yangon [Rangoon] Airport by U Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs; U Ba Thwin, director general of the International Organization and Economic Department; Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department; U Aye, director general of the Political Department; responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tomoya Kawamura, and embassy officials.

Resistance Radio To Begin Broadcasting 19 Jul

BK1507024092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 92 p 6

[Text] The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), the Burmese government in exile, will this Sunday [19 Jul] begin broadcasting in the Burmese language from Norway to inform the Burmese populace of the true political situation in Burma.

NCGUB Information Minister Hla Pe said that the radio broadcast will be transmitted from the powerful Foreign Broadcasting Department of Radio Norway International. The Burmese-language broadcast will be from 9.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. Burma Standard Time (9.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. local [Thailand] time).

The one-hour programme on the short wave band will concentrate on educational and health issues in addition to international news, the true political situation in the country and activities of the parallel government in ethnic guerrilla-controlled territories in Burma.

U Hla Pe added that a 15-minute news programme in ethnic minority languages will later be included in the daily broadcast from Norway.

Since Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy which won a landslide victory in the elections in Rangoon, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway last year, that country had decided to support the struggle for democracy in Burma.

The NCGUB was formed by elected members of the NLD three years ago at Karen National Union headquarters in Manerplaw, opposite Mae Hong Son Province, and is led by Prime Minister Sein Win an elected representative from Pegu Division.

The Norwegian Government told ministers of the parallel government that it wants to help people in areas controlled by the military junta as well as hold talks with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council regarding the issue of human rights in Burma.

17 'Terrorist Insurgents' Surrender in Jun

BK1407142392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Terrorist insurgents belonging to various insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering at different army camps with arms and ammunition.

Accordingly, 17 terrorist insurgents surrendered between 1-19 June 1992 and they were warmly received by the responsible officials of the camps concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Sultan Pledges To Build Ties With Neighbors

BK1507104092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Bandar Seri Begawan, July 15 (AFP)—Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Wednesday directed officials in his tiny oil-rich kingdom to implement policies that would promote economic development and boost trade.

"The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) free trade plan can be used as a means of mobilising and speeding up development of productive industries," Sultan Hassanal said at a parade marking his 46th birthday.

The parade and an investiture ceremony held later were attended by senior officials from several of the ASEAN countries which groups Brunei with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Among them were Malaysia's Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat, Singapore Defence Minister Yeo Ning Hong, Indonesian Defence Minister Benny Murdani and Carlos Dominguez, representing the Philippine president.

Sultan Hassanal said that the 25-year-old ASEAN had helped establish a stable political environment and allowed member countries to develop freely.

"Brunei places great importance on understanding and cooperation with neighbouring countries to ensure regional peace and security," he said.

Sultan Hassanal said that Brunei should not just participate in the proposed ASEAN Free Trade Area plan merely to show solidarity "but also for long term benefit of the country."

He said that a committee would be set up to look into Brunei's future manpower needs for development.

ASEAN heads of governments endorsed an agreement for common effective preferential tariffs at their last summit in Singapore in January this year.

The scheme which will come into effect next year will serve as a preliminary mechanism for creating an ASEAN free trade area within 10 to 15 years, officials said.

Malaysia

China Told To Exercise Caution in Spratlys Issue

BK1507081892 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Jul 92 p 9

[Text] Seremban, Sun.—China should exercise caution in its claim over the Spratly Islands as armed conflicts will result in serious repercussions on the stability of Southeast Asia. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that the issue should be solved through discussions via diplomatic channels.

"The peace and stability of the region is vital for its economic growth," he told reporters after opening the Rasah UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth and Wanita [Women] delegates meeting here.

Abdullah was asked to comment on a recent report that China had promised an American company, Crestone Energy Corporation, military protection while it searched for oil and gas around the Spratlys.

The Spratlys, stragtegically situated along major sea lanes and believed to be rich in oil deposits, are claimed wholly or in part by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

"The countries involved must guarantee that stability is maintained."

Country Seen Able To Spur Cambodian Peace

BK1507100192 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia, along with Indonesia should be commended for offering to send their peacekeeping troops in the Khmer Rouge strongholds in order to break the impasse in the Cambodian peace process.

The offer is based on the assumption that the Khmer Rouge might be unhappy with the possibility that others may be sent to their areas to supervise the second phase of the Paris peace accord.

Malaysia believes that it enjoys the good standing as well as the trust and confidence of all the four warring factions in Cambodia, and thus will be accepted by the Khmer Rouge to handle the peacekeeping operations in the areas under their domination.

Malaysia is generally concerned about the situation that has been brought about by the Khmer Rouge's refusal to comply with the provisions under the UN-brokered peace plan and submit their troops to be confined in cantonments for demobilization, making the peace process to go ahead according to schedule.

It is crucial that the peace process be carried out without hindrance. The stability of Southeast Asia is glued to the stability of Cambodia as it is vital for the realization of the zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality or ZOPFAN, which is ASEAN's dream. The consequences of the failure of the peace accord can be disastrous to Cambodia's future as well as the political and economic progress of the region as a whole.

It is unfortunate that the path towards peace in that country that has been torn apart by conflicts and bloodshed for many years is being hampered by the stubbornness of one party among the four that signed the treaty. Khmer Rouge insists that there must be a UN verification of the non-existence of a single Vietnamese soldier on Cambodian soil before it continues to abide by the provisions of the peace accord.

Malaysia had already made it clear that it concurred with the finding of the UN Security Council that the Vietnamese who invaded Cambodia and installed the Hun Sen Government in place of the Khmer Rouge has made a complete withdrawal to pave the way for the restoration of peace and the establishment of the democratically elected government in due course.

Malaysia is of the view that even if the peace process is poor or delayed, the rehabilitation of Cambodia and its long-suffering people must be given due prominence. Apart from sending a contingent of troops as part of the 16,000-strong UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia or UNTAC, Malaysia is ready with courses of aid to assist the Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction. Realizing that Cambodia is also facing an acute shortage of cooking oil, the Malaysian Government has decided to send 67,000 tons of this item worth 200,000 ringgit by the end of this month. Other forms of assistance can be expected from Malaysia as and when the need arises.

It is Malaysia's hope that the Khmer Rouge will accept the offer of troops to areas under their control for the smooth implementation of the second phase of the peace plan. It is now left to the four factions and the Cambodian people as whole to come together and work faithfully towards the political and social economic development which will in turn enable them to live in peace and harmony with each other as well as with its neighbors in the region, and in a wider perspective—the international community.

Government Wants SRV, Laos in ASEAN

BK1407151292 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Malaysia would like to see Vietnam and Laos become members of ASEAN as soon as possible. The

Foreign Ministry Secretary General, Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, said both are allowed to apply for membership ASEAN but they had to agree to ratify ASEAN's Treaty of Amity of Cooperation. He added the 25th ASEAN ministerial-level meeting in Manila on 21 and 22 July is expected to agree to allow Vietnam and Laos to join the regional meeting as observers. He was briefing newsmen on the meeting in Kuala Lumpur today.

He also said China and Russia have been invited to attend the Manila meeting as official guests of the chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee.

Mahathir Discusses Ongoing Sixth Plan Projects

BK1407142992 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said only vital Sixth Malaysia Plan projects will be continued because present expenditure has exceeded the budget for the plan. He said this financial pressure has forced the government to spend more carefully with efforts concentrated on implementation of infrastructure projects.

The prime minister said vital projects under the Sixth Malaysia Plan, included the laying of railway tracks, building of airports, and educational projects. The government would depend more on the private sector to provide other facilities that were needed. He was speaking to reporters after attending a briefing on Terengganu's development at the Menara Perbadanan Memajukan Iktisad Negeri Terengganu [Terengganu State Economic Development Corporation Building] in Kuala Terengganu.

Federal cabinet ministers were also present at the hour-long briefing given by Terengganu Mentri Besar [Chief Minister] Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir also said the DAP [Democratic Action Party] secretary general, Lim Kit Siang, ought to pay a fine for evading toll at the Kuala Lumpur-Ayer Kroh highway recently. He said Encik [Mr.] Lim is not above the law, and being an opposition leader does not give Encik Lim the privilege to break laws. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said even the prime minister cannot escape from the law if he commits a crime. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahahthir said tomorrow's cabinet meeting in Kuala Terengganu will discuss the dispute between the Kelantan Government and the Federal Government over the Pergau hydroelectric project. He said further developments of the issue could only be expected after the meeting.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who is also UMNO [United Malays National Organization] president, reminded party members to avoid using dirty tactics such as distributing poison-pen letters to discredit someone. The prime minister and his entourage arrived in Kuala Terengganu today and are scheduled to be there until Friday.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Demobilization Proposal Cited

BK1507055492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0411 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 15—Cambodia's Khmer Rouge announced Tuesday [14 July] they would disarm and put their entire guerrilla force in UN controlled holding areas in four weeks provided the Phnom Penh leadership was also dismantled at the same time, AFP reports.

The offer is an apparent bid to defuse international pressure against the radical Marxist group, which has so far blocked Cambodia's peace process by refusing to go along with a UN programme launched June 12 to demobilize and disarm 70 percent of the country's rival forces.

Until now, the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the guerrilla factions which fought Phnom Penh government in a civil war which formally ended with the signing of the Paris peace treaty last October, had demanded that the government be dissolved prior to the cantonment of its troops.

The faction's hardline stance had led to accusations that it wanted to destroy the peace process, and Western countries, led by France, have considered taking sanctions against them.

Diplomats familiar with developments in Cambodia said the latest Khmer Rouge offer looked like an attempt to stymie possible sanctions by suggesting a "reasonable" way of breaking the impasse.

In their statement issued in Bangkok, the Khmer Rouge said they would accept the "regroupment and cantonment" of all their forces in a four-week process during which all the leaders of the Phnom Penh regime should also step down. By offering to accept that its entire force be disarmed the Khmer Rouge are going beyond the UN requirement and therefore seemingly putting themselves in a position where they could make a concession, diplomats said.

"By presenting what looks like such a reasonable proposal the Khmer Rouge are trying to defuse growing international pressures against them," one diplomat said.

Their new proposal, he explained, would make it extremely difficult for countries like China and Thailand, the faction's main allies, to support a push for UN sanctions. Under the Khmer Rouge scheme, the first 10 percent of the Khmer Rouge forces would come under UN control during the first week after Phnom Penh's ministers and vice ministers of defence and public security step down.

During the second week another 20 percent would be regrouped after the foreign affairs and finance ministers and vice ministers go, followed by 30 percent in the third week after the stepping down of the minister and vice ministers of information.

The remaining Khmer Rouge force would hand over its weapons during the fourth week after the Phnom Penh president, prime minister, National Assembly speaker, and remaining ministers step down, the statement said.

"Along with those measures, it is necessary that within the Cambodia parties, consultative committees of the SNC be set up," the Khmer Rouge said.

The SNC or Supreme National Council was formed under the Paris accord with representatives of Cambodia's rival factions as a reconciliation body headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

In keeping with the peace treaty, the SNC is to lead Cambodia to free and fair elections in mid 1993 conjunction with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The Khmer Rouge statement, dated July 12, made no mention of the other pretext which the faction had invoked to refuse the UN demobilisation scheme—the alleged presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. It is unclear if the Khmer Rouge plan has been formally presented to the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia headed by Yasushi Akashi.

Despite Hanoi's announcement of a complete withdrawal of its expeditionary corps in September 1989, the Khmer Rouge have since insisted that Vietnamese soldiers stayed behind.

The faction demanded that the UN verify Vietnam's military presence. But when UNTAC said it could find no evidence of Vietnamese ground forces operating in Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge claimed that verification had not been prolerly conducted.

Khmer Rouge Deny Shooting at UN Helicopters

BK1507020292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Jul 92

["Denial by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea of a Deliberate Accusation that the PDK Shot at Two UN Helicopters in Pailin"—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] I. It is reported that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], in a protest note, has accused Democratic Kampuchea of shooting at two UN helicopters in an area near an UNTAC office in Pailin.

II. Actually, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] does not want to argue with the UNTAC but we wish to clarify the facts as follows:

1. On Thursday 9 July and Saturday 11 July, no such incidents occurred in Pailin. As such, this constitutes a gross and deliberate accusation with an ulterior political motive against the PDK.

2. As for the allegation that the PDK has announced that it will offer a reward of $3,500 to anyone who shoots down a UN helicopter, it is simply an erroneous and deliberate fabrication with an ulterior political motive as well.

3. The PDK wishes to reiterate that if UNTAC, which is supposed to play a neutral role in correctly and meticulously implementing the Paris accord so as to bring about independence, peace, and national unity for Cambodia, adopts a political stance in backing this party against that party politically as well as in its activities and propaganda, this will in no way benefit UNTAC's influence and honor. As Jacques Bekaert wrote in the BANGKOK POST on 11 July, the Cambodian people have begun to lose faith in UNTAC.

4. Democratic Kampuchea has needed UNTAC since the negotiations stage ended in order to fulfill the Paris accord. And now, Democratic Kampuchea still needs UNTAC and the Supreme National Council to cooperate in the correct implementation of the essence of the 23 October 1991 Paris accord. As a matter of fact, the Vietnamese aggressors and puppets as well as a number of bad elements are carrying out all manner of maneuvers to destroy the Paris accord for the purpose of serving their political aim and strategy of invading and occupying Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge Military Attacks Detailed

BK1407123192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Press communique of the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry spokesman—read by announcer]

[Text] The second phase of the cease-fire is one month old as of 14 July 1992. During this period, which is the most significant for the peace process, the forces of the State of Cambodia [SOC] faction have made sincere efforts in regrouping and cantoning five units of their troops, arms, and ammunition under the control of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. However, in total contrast to the genuine goodwill of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] and the Cambodian people, the Khmer Rouge have intensified and are intensifying attacks to expand territory and ceaselessly cause serious destruction against CPAF positions and localities controlled by the people's power of the SOC. As a matter of fact:

In Kompong Cham Province, at 1200 on 4 July 22 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Regiment 73, Division 417, attacked the CPAF position in Phum Thmei, causing extensive damage to a school building. At 1000 on 10 July 25 to 30 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Regiment 85, Division 801, attacked and destroyed the administrative post in Kompong Reap commune, Kaoh Sotin District, burning down a number of people's houses and wounding a boy.

In Kratie Province on 6 July, about 100 Khmer Rouge soldiers intercepted and robbed a passenger car traveling from Kratie to Stung Treng at Kbal Damrei commune, Sambo District, Kratie Province. In that attack they killed five people, damaged the car, seized all personal belongings, and took away some of passengers in the car.

In Kompong Thom Province, at 1200 on 6 July a group of Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 802 launched a surprise attack against the CPAF in Kon K'ek Village, Kompong Svay District, killing one CPAF soldier and wounding two others. On 9 July the Khmer Rouge used three 82-mm mortars to fire barrages against the CPAF position in (Thmong) village, Stoung District.

More serious still, at 0500 on the morning of 14 July Khmer Rouge forces from Divisions 616 and 802 with artillery support launched a four-pronged offensive on the positions defending the seat of Kulen District, forcing the CPAF at the Pyuo Chruk position to pull out temporarily. Up to the present the Khmer Rouge have continued their offensive, causing serious hardship and deprivation to the livelihood and security of the people in that region.

The repeated attacks and provocations of the Khmer Rouge have grossly violated the Paris peace agreement and constitute part of their dark designs to block the implementation of the cease-fire's second phase, which is UNTAC's peace plan in Cambodia.

International Pressure on Khmer Rouge Advocated

BK1507095592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Jul 92
[PRACHEACHON commentary: "It Is Time To Take Measures Against the Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] The Paris peace accord has been implemented for nearly nine months now, but its execution has never been smooth with the Khmer Rouge putting themselves up as obstacles since 23 October 1991.

Militarily, the Khmer Rouge have not only violated the truce by shelling the positions of the State of Cambodia [SOC]—wounding or killing a great number of our people and destroying their property—they have also on many occasions shot at aircraft of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. What the public is concerned about is not only their refusal to participate in Phase II of the cease-fire, but also their open, arrogant objection against it. In fact, they have ordered their troops to shell every UNTAC-controlled regrouping center of the SOC and have openly announced that they will offer $3,500 to soldiers from any party who shoot at UNTAC aircraft.

Politically and diplomatically, the Khmer Rouge—represented by Khieu Samphan and Son Sen in the Supreme National Council [SNC]—have always used their right of veto to block the meetings between the SNC and UNTAC from achieving effective results. Lately, due to their illogical demands, tension has been created in the implementation of the accord's second phase. His Excellency Hun Sen has said: the process can neither move forward nor backward.

In the face of this situation, the SOC's armed forces have maintained their right to self-defense in case the Khmer Rouge should continue to commit breaches at a time when the United Nations has not taken any concrete measures yet. This is despite the active participation of the SOC's armed forces in the cease-fire's second phase to promote with goodwill the implementation of the Paris accord toward its ultimate goal. By all appearances, demobilization and disarmament cannot be carried out at this stage. The SOC side, which is cooperating fully with UNTAC, cannot allow itself to be [words indistinct] by Khmer Rouge violations. More than ever before, the SOC's armed forces and the Cambodian people, who are being victimized by the Khmer Rouge breaches, should heighten their vigilance and use their legitimate rights of self-defense at all costs. We believe the appropriate solution to the deadlock and the prevention of a recurrence of a new phase of bitter bloodletting is for the UN Security Council and the international community involved in the Cambodian problem to put all possible pressure on the Khmer Rouge. This has been proposed recently by the French Government through its foreign ministry spokesman. The suggestion represents a reasonable request at this stage of tension.

Over 35,000 Refugees Repatriated From Camps

BK1407033892 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1117 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 13 Jul (SPK)—Three months after the refugee repatriation program was started, the State of Cambodia has received 8,282 families with a total of 35,867 persons: 35,390 came from camps in Thailand and the rest from other camps in Indonesia, Malaysia, Austrlalia, and Singapore.

Some 31,000 returnees from camps in Thailand have already left transit centers to settle in their home villages. Among the six reception centers, that of Pun Phnum in Phnom Penh has (?received) 2,250 families; that of O Taki, Battambang Province, 1,978 families; and that of [name indistinct] in Sisophon District, Banteay Meanchey Province, 1,622 families.

The State of Cambodia plans to receive this month 10,700 returnees.

UN Reports Inflation Running 'About' 100 Percent

BK1307102792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, July 13 (AFP)—Inflation in Cambodia is running at about 100 percent annually, according to a United Nations report Monday.

The rate was estimated from a consumer price index of goods in the Cambodian capital, and does not accurately reflect the rate elsewhere in the country, said UN spokesman Eric Falt.

The inflation rate just a few months ago before the UN peacekeeping mission deployed more than 15,000 foreigners to this impoverished country was estimated at about 75 percent, Falt said.

The presence of thousands of free-spending UN peacekeepers and civilian administrators are clearly straining the Cambodian economy.

All UN officials and many military officers make a 145 dollar daily allowance—more than the yearly salary of average Cambodians—on top of their regular salaries.

The Cambodian currency, the riel, has plummeted to 1,300 to the dollar, its lowest point since it was established in 1979. The dollar is the preferred currency at many restaurants in the capital, and dollars can be used freely throughout Cambodia.

Economists say this has contributed to a lack of confidence in the riel, with shopowners in the capital now refusing to accept small 10 and 20 riel notes.

The riel's highest point was 450 to the dollar in December.

Prices have gone up at the same time, with foreigners grabbing up housing and pushing prices through the roof.

A house in the capital can rent for up to 6,000 dollars, with the median at about 3,000. That's up from about 1,000 to 1,300 dollars for the same type of house one year ago.

Many humanitarian aid workers report being forced out of their houses by landlords seeking to rent the premises to the United Nations for more money.

Rooms at the luxury Hotel Cambodiana, which one year ago cost about 70 dollars, start at 150 dollars a night and go up to 370 dollars for a suite.

A standard room at a local Cambodian hotel has gone up from 25 dollars a year ago to about 50 to 70 dollars now.

A can of Coke, which cost 350 riel, now fetches 600 riel in the market, and one dollar at a restaurant.

Indonesia

Japan Asked To Investigate 'Comfort Women' Issue

BK1507123992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1019 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Jakarta, July 15 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Indonesian Government has urged Japan to thoroughly investigate the issue of Indonesian women being forced into prostitution by the Japanese Army during World War II.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement said on Monday that Indonesia had no intention of blowing up the "comfort women" issue but for the sake of dignity appealed to the Japanese Government to investigate the charges that women in several parts of Asia were forced into prostitution.

The ministry also said Indonesia welcomed the recent apology by the Japanese Government for the actions of wartime authorites in Indonesia and in other Southeast Asian countries.

The ministry insisted however that a thorough investigation was needed because the recent Japanese findings were based on only four letters about the "comfort women".

These led to the findings which reveal that there were 225 women who became victims of the Japanese. Indonesia believes that the number of victims is much higher, the ministry said.

Indonesia does not want to be trapped by the past but on the other hand cannot easily forget the comfort women issue since there is no way to bring back the loss of dignity of the Indonesian women concerned no matter what action the Japanese Government takes, the statement said.

Technical Team To Study PRC Hydrotechnology

BK1407092892 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 9 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] Jakarta— Indonesia will send a technical team to China to study micro hydrotechnology, which will be applied to generate electricity, Minister of Public Works Radinal Mokhtar said here on Tuesday.

According to him, President Suharto is interested in applying the technology and has asked related institutions to study and apply it here to examine villagers need for electric power.

After accompanying the PRC Minister of Irrigation, Yang Zhenhuai, for a courtesy call on Vice President Sudharmono at his office, Radinal said that PRC was experienced in the field for a long time.

After considering the possibility for its implementation here, Indonesia, in August, will send a team comprising of irrigation, agriculture, industry and PLN [National Electricity Board] institutions, he said.

The team will also study the technology for the construction of a relatively low cost rubber dam commonly used in PR of China, he said.

The PR of China has warmly welcome the plan of the technical team visit adding that it will strengthen the cooperation between the two countries, Radinal said.

Yang Zhenhuai, accompanied with the Director General for Irrigation Construction Project Company, Ji Changhua, and Charge d'Affaires of PRC Embassy in Indonesia, Lie Xinshing, has inspected some dams in West and East Java during their official visit for his six days.

Zhenhuai said that PRC and Indonesia would study each other's irrigation technology to enhance the proceeding cooperations.

Air Exercises With Singapore Not for Defense Pact

BK1507060492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0400 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Pakan Baru, July 15 (OANA-ANTARA)—Joint exercises which have been carried out between the Indonesian and Singaporean Air Forces so far are not intended for creating a defense pact, Rear Marshal Rukandi, the operations deputy of the Indonesian Air Force, said after closing the 7th Elang Indopura joint exercise here on Tuesday.

The exercises are solely meant for improving the capability of the two countries' air force personnel, he said adding that Indonesia has also conducted exercises with other ASEAN countries and even with Australia.

The exercises have provided a lot of advantages especially for enhancing cooperation and improving mutual understanding particularly in the field of securing the borders, Rukandi said. Seeing that mutual understanding can help smooth solution of problems, Rukandi said he hoped the exercises with Singapore as well as other ASEAN countries would continue. ASEAN—the Association of Southeast Asian nations—comprises Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Cooperation between the Indonesian Armed Forces and the armed forces of other ASEAN countries also include education exchange of personnel, he said.

The 7th Elang Indopura exercise carried out since July 8 involved A-4 Skyhawks, helicopters, Hercules and Special Air Force units. The closing ceremony was attended by the chief of staff of the Singapore Air Force (RSAF), Brigadier General Bey Soo Khiang.

Dutch Minister's Upcoming Visit Previewed

BK1507085792 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0409 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Jakarta, July 15 (OANA-ANTARA)—Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Hans van den Broek is convinced that there are still ample opportunities of further cooperation between the Netherlands and Indonesia, after Indonesia refused Dutch developent aid since a few months ago.

When interviewed by ANTARA's correspondent in the Hague, Syarif Hidayat, in connection with his visit to Indonesia beginning Thursday, Broek said that there are still many fields of cooperation between Indonesia and the Dutch.

"One third of Indonesian exports to European countries flows through Rotterdam harbour and Schiphol Airport. It shows indeed that the Netherlands is an important gateway to Europe for Indonesian goods," Broek said on Tuesday.

The minister also said that the Netherlands is also the largest European investor in Indonesia.

According to the minister, the Dutch Government is very pleased with the recent opening of the Indonesian Trade and Distribution Centre (ITDC) in Rotterdam.

After the decision of the Indonesian Government to end the development cooperation relation, he said, both Indonesia and the Dutch Government have stressed the wish to continue and even intensify the cooperation in other fields.

The two countries are also determined to work on a strong relationship based on mutual respect and interest. "And that is what both governments have been working on now," he added.

According to the minister, both countries have done some efforts to strengthen the cooperation. In April, the Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar came to the Netherlands to attend the opening of the Indonesian Trade and Distribution Centre (ITDC) in Rotterdam.

"Our minister for foreign trade, Yvonne van Rooy, paid a successful visit to Indonesia in May. And several other ministerial visits are planned for the near future," the minister said.

During her visit to Indonesia, van Rooy has mentioned the flourishing trade and investment relations between the two countries. "All the conditions for a substantial expansion of bilateral economic relations are in place. So I would like to invite all interested members of the business community to work on this expansion," Broek said. "This shows our mutual intention to further strengthen our bilateral cooperation," the minister added.

When asked about the main purpose of his visit to Indonesia, the minister said that it is to further strengthen the Indonesian-Dutch bilateral relation. "My good friend and colleague minister Ali Alatas invited me to come to Indonesia to discuss several topics of mutual importance," he said.

During his visit in Indonesia, the minister also intends to discuss current political issues, such as the European political union and the relationship betwwen the European Community and ASEAN countries.

Minister Hans van den Broek said that he will also discuss with Indonesia regional developments in ASEAN and on the situation in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Most East Timorese Want Native as Governor

BK1407130992 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 3 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—A legislator has added to the growing pressure to Jakarta to let East Timorese have a native as its next governor.

"All East Timorese I talked to during my recent visit (to the former Portuguese colony) want their next governor to be an indigenous East Timorese," Salvador Januario Ximenes Soares told the JAKARTA POST on Wednesday [1 Jul].

Salvador argued that the appointment of a non-East Timorese governor would create the wrong impression among foreign countries and disssatisfied local people that Indonesia meant to colonize East Timor.

The statement by the DPR [House of Representatives] member from East Timor was the latest contribution in the heated debate over who should replace governor Mario Vegas Carrascalao when his term of office expires in September.

Carrascalao, a popular indigenous governor, has ruled out local people's proposal to stay in office, saying that taking a third five-year term would represent a violation of the law.

The local legislative council (DPRD) is yet to formally propose the gubernatorial candidates to the home affairs minister but their names have been widely publicized.

Home Affairs Minister Rudini and the local Military Field Commander Brigadier General Theo Syafei have in various occasions said that the origin of the next governor is not important because East Timor has been an integral part of Indonesia since 1976.

Among the names believed to have a good chance to replace Carrascalao are Clementino Dos Reis Amaral (a DPR member), A.B. Saridjo (vice governor), Armindo Mariano (Dili regent), Rui Tesseira Lopez (Kovalima regent), Mariano Lopez Da Cruz (Maliana Regent), and Lopez Da Cruz (a member of the Supreme Advisory Council).

The official statements have been generally interpreted as a support for the candidacy of Saridjo, who is a Javanese. The final decision will be in the hand of the president.

Salvador said the appointment of a native as the next East Timor governor was important to "win back the local people's heart" hurt by the November 12, 1991 bloody incident in Dili in which about 50 people were killed.

"Efforts to win back East Timorese's heart can succeed if they are made by a governor who has emotional ties with the local people," he said.

East Timorese bishop Carlos Fillipe Ximenes Belo has also stepped in the debate over the best choice for the next governor of predominantly Roman Catholic East Timor.

In a rare press meeting at his residence in Dili two weeks ago, Belo said he would write President Suharto, asking him to name an East Timor native as the next governor.

The bishop's involvement, however, has also caused confusion as a similar request circulated by him and addressed to various public figures were declared fake by Brig. Gen. Theo who claims to have discussed the matter with him.

Presidential Decree on Electricity Supply Issued

BK1507065292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0422 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Jakarta, July 15, (OANA-ANTARA)—The goverment has issued a presidential decree (Keppres) no. 37, 1992 on electricity supply by private businesses and cooperatives in order to fulfil the mounting need for electricity.

Minister of Mines and Energy Ginanjar Kartasasmita, after reporting to President Suharto at Cendana [presidential residence] on Tuesday, said the decree consists of stipulations regulating the financing, ownership and management of the electricity power plant, including its transmissions and distributions.

According to the minister the long-awaited decree will be used as a legal basis for managing businesses involved in electricity provision because the marketing of electricity is not to be as free as that of other commodities.

"Investment in electricity must be regulated, not only because it needs investment of substantial amount of foreign exchange used to import high-tech equipment but also the electricity must be sold in rupiah currency," he said. Therefore, a power generation business needs special regulations giving certainty for all investors, including details on private power plants owners' rights and obligations.

Article 2 of the decree mentioned that the establishment of a private power plant must adopt the build, own and operate (BOO) pattern.

"While people talk about build, own and transfer (BOT) pattern, we choose to use the BOO because there is no use to transfer outdated and used equipment of over 30 years old to the state-owned Electricity Company (PLN)-," Ginanjar said.

Article 3 paragraph 2 mentioned that the licence can be given to a company or group of companies involved in power plant businesses such as generation, transmission and distribution. [passage omitted]

Suharto Receives Report From Military Chief

BK1407143892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1028 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Jakarta, July 14 (OANA/ANTARA)—Chief of the Armed Forces Gen. [General] Try Sutrisno here Tuesday reported the results of an investigation carried out by the Armed Forces (ABRI) of last year's November 12 Dili

incident to President Suharto in his capacity as the supreme commander of ABRI.

The report made by a team instructed by the Armed Forces chief to investigate the incident in the capital of East Timor last year said that the incident claimed 115 people who are either dead or still missing, a spokesman for the Armed Forces Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Nurhadi Purwosaputro M.Sc. said at the ABRI headquarters in Cilangkap here Tuesday.

The number does not include a foreign journalist, Kamal Banadhaj, who was also killed in the Dili Incident.

Of the 115 people previously reported missing, 31 have returned to their villages up to June 28, 1992. The team led by Insp. Gen. [Inspector General] Vice Admiral Sumitro, who is also a member of the National Investigation Committee (KPN), did not find any new graves in addition to the 18 graves found at Hera.

Some of the 66 missing people are believed to be dead while the rest have reportedly joined a troublemaker group (GPK) which is hiding in forest, according to Nurhadi.

Among those believed to be in hiding is Constantio Pinto, a driving force behind the demonstration on 12 November 1991 in Dili.

It has not been easy to find those still alive or the graves of the victims despite ABRI's diligence in carrying out President Suharto's instruction, according to Nurhadi.

The ABRI team has utilised all possible sources of information for the investigation, including the police and village heads who gave information on the people who they believed became victims of the incident.

The ABRI official is of the view that based on past experiences, those who are still alive will come back to their homes sooner or later.

Except for those who were the driving forces behind the demonstration, most of these people would be set free, he said.

On comments from foreigners that the Indonesian court gave heavier sentences to civilians than to ABRI members involved in the Dili incident, the ABRI spokesman explained that the civilians were tried not just for staging the demonstration but also for subversive acts.

They are conspiring against the Indonesian authorities, and their network extends not only to Dili and Jakarta but also to other countries, Nurhadi said.

The military officers were punished for acting beyond their authority when they were dealing with the demonstrators in Dili. If the ABRI members had been found guilty of subversive acts they would have been given heavy penalties too, he added.

E. Timorese Men Sentenced for Activities

Life Sentence for 'Subversive' Acts

BK1307134092 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 1 Jul 92 p 1

[Excerpts] Dili, East Timor (JP)—An East Timorese was sentenced to life by a local district court here yesterday for subversive activities.

Gregoria da Cunha Saldanha, who is also known by the aliases Giri and Mouris, 29, a former employee of Dili central hospital, was found guilty by the panel judges of anti-Indonesian activities for the establishment of a separate state in East Timor between 1989 and 1991.

The verdict, which fulfilled prosecutor E. Supardi Narasaputra's request in an earlier session, is the heaviest handed down so far for those involved in the anti-state activities in the former Portuguese colony. [passage omitted]

The defendant, who registered no emotion upon hearing his sentence, told the court he would appeal to the High Court against the verdict. Gregoria, who was defended by two lawyers from the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI) in cooperation with the Indonesian Bar Association, tried to smile as he repeatedly leaned his head on the back of his dark-colored wheelchair. [passage omitted]

The panel of judges said that Gregorio was a member of the Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] rebel group and responsible for distributing anti-government pamphlets.

In January 1990, during a visit by United States Ambassador John Monjo, the defendant led a 2,000 strong demonstration against the government, in which Fretilin supporters wielded 30 posters reading "Intergracao Nao, Indepencencia Sim" (Integration No, Independence Yes). [passage omitted]

Gregorio was also a member of a clandestine group called Comite Executivo (CE) [Executive Committee] in charge of agitation and propaganda. CE planned a demonstration to welcome the planned visit of a Portuguese parliamentary delegation to Dili in 1991.

10 Years for 'Seditious' Act

BK1407135292 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 7 Jul 92 p 2

[Excerpts] The Dili District Court has sentenced a man to 10 years imprisonment for his role in the November 12 demonstration at the Santa Cruz Cemetery.

The panel of judges presided over by Pandapotan Sinaga determined that the defendant, Jacinto Das Reves Raimundo Alves, was guilty of committing a seditious act against the government as stipulated by article 160 of the criminal code (KUHP).

The judges' verdict was two years more than requested by prosecutor Sipet.

Alves' defense lawyers, led by Artidjo Alkostar, appealed the verdict.

In a marathon trial on Saturday [4 Jul], Sinaga pronounced that Alves was involved in many clandestine meetings in Dili and Metiaro between July and November 1991. The meetings discussed plans to fight for the establishment of an independent East Timor state. [passage omitted]

In a previous session, Alves said he was appointed as chairman of the health and logistics section of the "Comite Executivo" (CE) [Executive Committee] chaired by Constancio Pinto. [passage omitted]

Alves said the organization functioned through financial assistance from foreign donors, the last being US$5,000 donation from Japan.

The verdict on Alves brings to six the number of people who have been convicted for their parts in the tragic Dili demonstration which claimed 50 lives and injured 90 others. [passage omitted]

Eight military members have also been convicted for acting beyond their authority in the military's handling of the clash between demonstrators and troops at the Santa Cruz Cemetery.

2 Years for Role in Church Brawl

BK1507121892 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 8 Jul 92 p 2

[Excerpts] Dili (JP)—The Dili district court yesterday sentenced a man to two years imprisonment for his part in a brawl near the Motael church on October 20 last year.

The panel of judges, presided over by A. Ratu Tanahboleng, found the defendant, Joao Dos Santos guilty of causing fatalities as stipulated in Article 170 of the criminal code. The sentence was more lenient than the three-year term demanded by prosecutor Saul Lukas.

The 23-year old Joao accepted the verdict calmly, but his mother broke into tears as her son was pronounced guilty. [passage omitted].

In previous trials, the Dili court has sentenced four other men in connection with the Motael brawl, which claimed two lives.

With this last verdict, all five people arrested in the Motael incident have been sentenced. [passage omitted].

Laos

Pact To Establish Consulates Reached With DPRK

BK1407122892 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Vientiane, July 14 (KPL)—The Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] and the DPR [Democratic People's Republic] of Korea on July 13 signed here an agreement on establishment of consulates between the two countries. Signing the agreement were, on the Lao side, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Soulivong Phasitthidet, and, on the DPR of Korea side, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Choe Su-hon.

The signing of the consulate agreement between the two countries represented another important landmark for the consolidation of the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation which correspond well with the reality [of] the Lao PDR and the DPR of Korea. This would facilitate contacts, trade, and cooperation in economy, culture, and others.

Mr. Choe Su-hon and his delegation arrived in Vientiane to officially visit Laos on July 12.

Delegation Calls on Vice Premier, Departs

BK1507100092 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Vientiane, July 15 (KPL)—Mr. Phoun Sipaseut, vice prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, yesterday received the visting Forign Ministry delegation of the DPR [Democratic People's Republic] of Korea led by its deputy minister Mr. Choe Su-hon.

Mr. Phoun Sipaseut congratulated the Korean delegation for the successful visit; particularly he hailed the signing of the consulate agreement between the two countries which he regarded as useful for the expansion of relations of friendship and cooperation in various fields between Laos and the DPRK.

Mr. Choe Su-hon and his delegation left here yesterday afternoon ending his three-day official visit to Laos.

Phoun Sipaseut Meets SRV Border Committee Group

BK1407122092 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Vientiane, July 14 (KPL)—A delegation of the border committee of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by its chairman, Mr. Le Minh Hien, yesterday paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Phoun Sipaseut, vice prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

Mr. P. Sipaseut expressed satisfaction over the result of the meeting on border issues between Laos and Vietnam taking place in Vientiane on July 8, 1992, especially the

regulation regarding border contact and trade, and the prevention of undesirable events along the border.

"The restoration of the border issue is also a great contribution to the expansion and development of the friendly ties between the parties, governments, and people of Laos and Vietnam," underlined Mr. Phoun Sipaseut.

World Bank Sponsors Seminar on Poverty Reduction

BK1507100692 Vientiane KPL in English 0853 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Vientiane, July 15 (KPL)—A 2-day seminar on the issue of poverty reduction and analysis cosponsored by the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance, the World Bank and UNICEF was officially opened yesterday morning at the National Institute of Administration and Management, Vientiane, by Mr. Khamsai Souphanouvong, EPF's [Economy, Planning, and Finance] first deputy minister.

The seminar chaired by EPF's Vice Minister Boutsabong Souvannavong yesterday touched on some crucial questions as follows: poverty and development overview, strategies for (?minimizing) poverty, the World Bank role in the matter, poverty statistics, the link between economic policy and poverty, social sector analysis and poverty policy, ways in which human capital investment affect labour productivity.

Taking part in the discussion were officials of various state institutions and mass organisations, such as the Lao Women's Union. Also present were representatives from the UNDP [UN Development Program], the World Health Organisation, the FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization], SIDA [Swedish International Development Agency], and NGO's [nongovernmental organizations].

Presenting papers was the World Bank team led by Mr. Bradley Babson, division chief of the Population and Human Resources for East Asia and the Pacific. Other resource persons were Mr. Emmanuel Jimenez, chief of the Poverty Analysis and Policy Division, Mr. Christopher Chamberlain, senior economist of the Population and Human Resources Division for East Asia and the Pacific, and Mr. Anil Detlalikar, professor of economics at the University of Washington.

Wednesday's agenda dealt with methods of policy analysis and use of social surveys, tools and methods of poverty analysis, public expenditure analysis, and the statistical system for poverty measurement and analysis in Laos.

Philippines

U.S. Defense Pact May Be Invoked Over Spratlys

HK1407142392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus stated that the Philippines may invoke the 1951 Philippines-United States mutual defense treaty to get the United States to help the Philippines in case a war breaks out in the Spratly Islands.

Here is Jojo Ismael with the details:

[Begin Ismael recording] In the roundtable forum at the Manila Pavillion Hotel, Manglapus said he believes the United States will help the Philippines in case of a foreign invasion in Philippine-controlled islands in the Spratlys.

But, he clarified that he supports a proposal in the Senate to review the treaty to determine the agreement's extent.

Meanwhile, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Blas Ople said the agreement, in line with the Treaty of Paris, covers only the territories and fishing areas that are clearly within the Philippines. Ople added that Washington is of the opinion that the Spratlys are not part of the Philippines. [end recording]

In a related development, Senator Ople said there is a need to revise the mutual defense treaty to determine how far the United States will help the Philippines in case it is attacked by other countries.

Ople made the statement as tension built up over the Spratly Islands and the ongoing arms race among Asian countries such as China, Thailand, and Malaysia.

PRC Seen 'Flexing Its Muscles'

HK1507052492 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 Jul 92 p 6

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said on Tuesday China was flexing its muscles with the departure of U.S. forces from Southeast Asia.

He told reporters one week before the ASEAN foreign ministers' conference in Manila that the end of the Cold War could force Southeast Asian countries to work more closely together in protecting their own security.

"China slept for a long time under a soporific ideology. Now, it is waking up," Manglapus told a press conference.

"China is merely living up to historical expectations that being such a big country, it would not fail but to flex its muscles.

"You cannot avoid geography. China and Japan have a love-hate relationship. There's enmity (between them). We're not the only ones in the middle but the whole of Southeast Asia is caught in the middle."

Rivalry between Japan and China may increase sharply with the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Philippines by the end of 1992 along with the disintegration of the Soviet Union last year, he added.

Recent steps by Beijing to underline its claim to the disputed Spratly islands have prompted ASEAN—which groups Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Thailand,

Malaysia and Singapore—to propose an international conference to settle the issue. China has resisted the idea.

"Perhaps the ASEAN meeting might produce a declaration on a multilateral meeting on the Spratlys," he said. "The suspicion that oil is found in that area has served to sharpen rivalries there."

China, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Brunei claim all or part of the Spratlys, an isolated cluster of islands and coral reefs in the South China Sea.

Manglapus said ASEAN countries favored the continued presence of U.S. forces in Southeast Asia because it is "better to deal with the known than with the unknown."

"I think Southeast Asian countries would not like to be dominated by anybody, whether Asian or non-Asian," Manglapus said.

U.S. forces are to abandon their last military base in the Philippines at Subic Naval Base after the Senate in Manila rejected a new 10-year treaty last September.

The foreign secretary said countries in Southeast Asia no longer feared nuclear confrontation, but were wary of regional conflicts breaking out and threatening their prosperity in the fastest growing area of the world.

They were also worried that with the departure of U.S. forces, "the vacuum will have to be filled by someone," Manglapus said. ASEAN foreign ministers will be discussing political and economic issues with the United States and Japan next week. Delegations from China, Russia, Vietnam and Laos are also attending the conference.

Japan, ROK Plan Alliance

HK1507084292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Italicized words in English]

[Text] The Philippines, Japan and South Korea plan to form a military alliance against China in case war breaks out over the Spratly Islands.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plan to ask the United States for a security blanket for the Asia-Pacific region in case conflict over the Spratlys worsens.

At present, China is building up its military forces to claim some parts of the Spratlys and plans to start oil exploration in the South China Sea.

Asian nations, however, expect that the Spratlys issue will be resolved peacefully.

In this connection, South Korea will make armored vehicles for the Philippines. This was confirmed by Major General Yon Jong Ho, chief of the Defense Ministry Logistics Department, who said the plan covers only Korean-developed items. This does not include American-patented weapons that require permits from the United States before they can be sold abroad.

South Korea now produces military hardware, including tanks and *crew-served* weapons. It is expected to manufacture armored vehicles that can be used by the Philippine military.

Japan Concerned Over Manila's Revenue Shortfall

HK1507081792 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 Jul 92 p 18

[By Arlene Chipongian]

[Text] The Japanese government has indicated concern over the continued revenue shortfall of the national government and its adverse impact on the sustained inflows of Japanese official development assistance into the country.

Kasuo Sunaga, first secretary of the Japanese embassy in Manila, said yesterday that the Philippine government faces a "serious problem" if it cannot allocate peso counterpart funds for foreign-assisted projects.

"If the Philippines wants Japanese financed projects to continue, this problem will have to be solved," Sunaga said.

The possibility of substantial revenue shortfall in the second half of this year had been raised by the Department of Budget and Management, saying the budget deficit could balloon to P21.6 billion [pesos], way above the programmed P9 billion cash shortfall as agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the economic stabilization program.

The shortfall comes at a time when the country is set to open negotiations for the much-delayed 18th yen loan package from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan. The package is worth about $1 billion.

Japan is the country's biggest source of grants and concessional loans amounting to $1 billion-$1.5 billion annually.

Sunaga said that Tokyo wants Manila to complete the IMF's second formal review and the new money-debt structuring program with the Paris Club before it starts negotiations on the OECF facility.

The revenue shortfall has prompted the Ramos administration to cut back on spending and diverting money earlier set aside as counterpart funds to other government expenditures.

Baguio City Receives Grant From Japan

HK1507070892 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Jul 92 p 10

[Text] Baguio City has received a grant-in-aid package from the Japanese government worth some 1.1 billion yen or P223 million [pesos] for the improvement and rehabilitation of the city's sewer system, the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) announced.

The financial package will come in the amounts of P97 million and P126 million for the first and second stages, respectively, of the project. The multi-million-peso grant was extended by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the request of the Philippine Government and LWUA.

According to engineer Emmanuel Malicdem, LWUA engineering manager for Northern and Central Luzon, the first stage of the rehabilitation project was begun last May and will be completed in February of 1993. The second stage will start in April next year following the completion of the ongoing project.

Malicdem said the city government has asked the LWUA for technical support and supervision during the construction phase of the project. Assigned to supervise construction and assist the Japanese consultants of the project are LWUA resident engineers Ceferino Aguinaldo and Rommel Falcon.

Contractor of the project is the Tobishima Corp. while overall project implementor and consultant is the Nippon Jogesuido Sekkei Co. (NJS), both Japanese firms.

The project calls for the installation of about seven kilometers of sewer lines in various sizes that will pass underneath major thoroughfares of the city; construction of three sewage intake facilities in several creeks; and the supply and delivery of computer and other technical equipment and appurtenances.

Baguio City residents are optimistic that when the project is finally completed the pollution of several creeks and rivers around the locality will be abated.

The Balili river, for one, has become polluted due to the untreated waste water being discharged into it. This, the residents hope, will be corrected by the improved sewer system.

Private Sector Cool to ASEAN Free Trade Zone

HK1507055292 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 15 Jul 92 p 3

[Text] A plan to turn the Association of Southeast Asian Nations into a free trade zone in the next 15 years is being received coolly by the private sector in member countries.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus acknowledged yesterday that the proposal for an Asean Free Trade Area (Afta)—as well as the agreement to lower tariff barriers among Asean members—is worrying businessmen, including those in the Philippines.

"The reaction of the private sector in those countries, even in the Philippines, is not one of unanimous acclamation," Manglapus said at a breakfast forum at the Manila Pavilion.

He attributed the apprehension to fear of losing what may be some protection from their governments in the past, and a natural "fear of the unknown."

The Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei agreed at the Asean summit in January to lower tariff among Asean-selected products. Certain categories will be lowered to 20% in January 1993, under a gradual schedule to be completed in 15 years when tariffs should range from zero to 5%.

Since the signing of Afta and the agreement on a common effective preferential tariff (Cept), Asean governments have been consulting their businessmen on how it would be implemented.

It has raised "some question marks" for businessmen in Asean countries "which (for them) have not been answered," Manglapus conceded.

Ramos Inaugurates Malacanang in Mindanao

HK1507060492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0219 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Speech by President Fidel V. Ramos in Davao City during the inauguration of the Malacanang in Mindanao and the induction of Paul Dominguez as the presidential assistant for Mindanao—live, in English; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Text] My countrymen, may I acknowledge with deep gratitude, because of the efforts they have taken to gather us all here together, first of all Mayor Robito Pepe [applause]; Mr. Chito Ayala [applause]; Mr. Paul Dominguez [applause]. I also would like to greet our distinguished members of the Philippine Senate: Senator Biazon, Senator Guingona, and Senator Rasul [applause]; the honorable members of the House of Representatives, both present and those who are represented here; our hard-working governors and city mayors, as well as municipal mayors of all Mindanao, other local government officials, especially our members of the provincial board, the members of our city and municipal councils, our barangay captains and the barangay council members; my co-workers in the cabinet; other co-workers in government; the leaders of the key sectors here in Mindanao and Davao City—the farmers, the educators, the fishing folk, the religious, the media, the youth and the students, the nongovernment organizations and the people's organizations. A good morning to all of you.

Thank you Mayor Tuterte for your kind words of welcome. [applause] I do not know whether I shall accomplish all you want to be done in 100 days [applause], but maybe we will settle for 99 days. [applause] And I thank all of you again, ladies and gentlemen, who represent the major constituents of Mindanao, for coming to join us here on this occasion.

If this is the first visit that I am making as your new president, and if this occasion speaks eloquently of

anything, it is to fulfill my promise to bring the presidency closer to the people. And it also symbolizes the administration's renewed attention and concern for the people of Mindanao. [applause]

Although I did visit, upon inspection [as heard], the lahar-affected areas in Central Luzon last Sunday, this visit to Davao and Mindanao is my first-ever scheduled official trip as president of the republic. [applause] This choice of my first official destination also speaks of my affinity with Mindanao. As the former cabinet officer for regional development, or CORD, for Region IX during the Aquino years, I have become very familiar with the conditions and aspirations of our people in this area. I also spent quite a bit of time as your secretary of national defense, your chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and your chief of the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police in the other regions of Mindanao. And while I do not come from these islands, because of the closeness to my heart of this part of our country, I almost feel like I am also one of Mindanao's native sons. [applause]

This trip will certainly not be the last. It is but the first in a series of regional trips I shall soon be making throughout Mindanao. *To the leaders and our friends in Regions IX, Region X, Region XII, and Region ARMM [Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao], just wait for me.* I will be there sooner than you think. [applause]

I came here today for three purposes: to express gratitude, to start fulfilling my promises, and to ask once again for your support behind our program of government.

Let me now thank you most sincerely for helping in the last elections. The consistent support I got from Mindanao enabled me to win one of the most closely contested elections in our history. To me, what was the most touching about all of this was that neither I nor my running mate, vice presidential candidate Lito Osmena, came from these parts. But your showing was a clear manifestation of your confidence and trust that I can lead this nation better than the aspirants from the other parties.

But that is now all past and behind us. We have six years in front of us, and so I have come here to start delivering my campaign promises to you. [applause] I promised then that I would accelerate economic growth in the region. This I would do by bringing the national government closer and within the reach of the people of Mindanao. And so today, I am happy to announce the appointment of Paul Dominguez as the presidential assistant for Mindanao. [applause] Paul, stand up and take a bow. Thank you. In effect, he will be an extension of my office, a direct link to the various sectors in this area, and will act in support of all other executive officials in this part of the country.

The Malacanang for Mindanao, which Paul Dominguez will head, will facilitate decisionmaking with regard to issues that affect our people's interests and wellbeing. It shall monitor and report to me the planning and the implementation of critical projects in Mindanao.

And so, let me now, right here, give my first official order to him. Paul, I am directing you to furnish me as soon as possible a list of what can be done right away for Mindanao. [applause] And with your help, ladies and gentlemen, I want him to draw up at once an integrated master plan for this island's development, building upon what already has been prepared by so many groups, including those of the recent past, for the accelerated and more effective growth of this important part of the Philippines.

But before Paul will tell me what I should be doing as his boss, let me also announce to you what I have done right away for this part of Mindanao. I shall be turning over to the Southern Philippines Development Authority checks from the National Reconciliation and Development Program Council, or the NRDP Council, funds totaling 9.7 pesos for distribution to the many rebel returnee groups throughout Mindanao. [applause]

It is not true that this fund was used for Eddie Ramos's campaign. And I hope that the cabinet officers concerned in the previous administration will not get into jail because of alleged manipulation of the rebel returnee funds under the NRDP.

Another check in the amount of 5 million pesos from the president's social fund is also being given to the Institute of Primary Health Care [applause] of the Davao Medical School Foundation. The Davao City Fire Department is getting one more fire truck courtesy of Secretary Alunan of the Department of Interior and Local Government, and finally 500,000 pesos shall be provided to the Fruit Development Cooperative of Davao, for the improvement of fruit production and quality, as well as 108,000 pesos to the Kuambugan farmers, with multipurpose livelihood association for swine-weaning and production, through the Department of Agriculture. [applause]

But this is not all, because there are some bigger ones. We would like you to know that I have instructed our Department of Public Works and Highways, under Ping de Jesus, the faster development of infrastructure in Mindanao, particularly the Mindanao arterial road network, to be given priority during my six-year term starting in 1992. [sentence as heard] And then—go ahead and applaud for Secretary de Jesus [applause]—and then, high in the order of priority within this network will be the General Santos-Digos-Davao City-Bukidnon road improvement project, which will interconnect with the fastest-growing major industrial and growth centers in Mindanao. These projects are included in the list of projects under the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] highway management loan. The other areas need not worry because, this early, we are already thinking of a Mindanao expressway system in order to prepare the region for the 21st century. [applause] And so, I have directed Secretary Ping de Jesus to initiate the plans for a proposed Mindanao expressway system interconnecting all the major growth centers and linking them with the major airports and seaports in the five regions.

And of interest to those of you here in Davao City, the proposed interchange at the intersection of Laurel and Bubangin will be implemented [applause], starting not later than December 1992, for completion not later than March 1993. This project has an estimated cost of about 50 million pesos, half of which can be charged to the 1992 budget and the other half to the 1993 infrastructure program.

But we must pay our taxes.

Those programs for the Department of Transportation and Communications will also be forthcoming, and we would want to make sure that Mindanao, as a vital component of our republic, shall be well connected to the center of government in Malacanang and in Manila, as well as to other growth centers throughout the country.

At this juncture, let me ask you all to join me in the fight against poverty, unemployment and high prices. The war against all these enemies of our development can be won simultaneously as we harness our energies, time, and resources toward productive endeavors that shall bring about self-reliant communities. Each community that attains self-reliance becomes an additional building block to the strong nation that we envision. Thus, the strength of the nation depends on its solid foundation, on the building blocks that are our rejuvenated communities.

I am aware of the many obstacles that hinder the development of Mindanao—its public infrastructure, especially power, highways, transportation and communications. In addition to these, I am aware of its peace and order problems. But, let us also make sure that the vast potential of natural and human resources in Mindanao are made known to both domestic and foreign investors.

The hardships that we encounter today are not without solutions. My administration will do everything within its power to create an atmosphere in Mindanao conducive to growth. But you must discover for yourselves how you can contribute your share, and together we can transform Mindanao into a center of economic growth in our country.

And among the first steps, I am now instructing all government banks to establish a Mindanao credit committee, whose board meetings will be held here in Mindanao. This is decentralization in action, which I hope private financial institutions will follow. I am also directing the secretary of the cabinet, Mrs. Leni de Jesus, to schedule, from time to time, cabinet meetings and cabinet cluster meetings in the various regional centers of Mindanao. *You may also clap there.*

Your region brims with great potential; that's why I cannot see why we should fail here in Mindanao. It's blessed not only with a favorable climate and as yet vast undeveloped lands. Perhaps just as important as all of these is the strategic position of Mindanao in relation to the economic tiger nations of Southeast Asia, which makes this island the ideal link to productive ventures with these other countries. Above all, we know that the people here in Mindanao, who are mostly of the pioneering spirit, are well-known for their remarkable attributes of determination, business skills, and resourcefulness.

Let me assure you that the agenda is clear and our course is set. And whenever we shall have the policy instruments and the program and organization to match, we will move with dispatch in the implementation of projects and in the prosecution of reforms. Whenever we must act, action we will provide; responsible, resolute and relentless action until our objectives are won.

To cite an example, let us take the power crisis, which is of such concern to you here in Mindanao. What we are empowered to do about the problem, solely from the seat of the executive, we have just about completed. The emergency measures are now in place. Projects have been commissioned or contracted. And this is for the purpose of shortening the periods of brownouts here in Mindanao. But the larger the agenda of establishing [as heard], the more long-range programs.

The organization of a department of energy must await the approval of Congress. But this remaining hurdle notwithstanding, let me say that by the end of the first 100 days of my presidency, I believe that we will have put in place the projects and the programs necessary for permanent relief from the energy crisis. And before the end of the next dry season, perhaps by the end of the first quarter of next year, I believe that we shall have enough power supply to light up again our homes and drive our industries.

Thirty-eight years ago, one of my predecessors, the revered Ramon Magsaysay, enunciated the principle that those who have less in life should have more in law. I believe it is now time to bring that principle into reality, that the least among us should have more both of the law and of life. For it is the lack of opportunities, even more than the lack of protection in law, that underpins the poverty of the great majority of our people.

To the communities we therefore proclaim: As a major concern of this administration, we will match with commitments to our citizenry—especially the working man, the farmer, the fisherman and the poor—what we pledged to our urban sectors, who will map these programs and resources for our rural areas. Indeed, it is essential that for our most distressed communities, we must divert a greater proportion of our resources and attention, for only in this way can they catch up and take part in the great adventure of development. All must be empowered so that they can contribute their best to national life.

Lend me, then, your unwavering assistance in making this dream come true for all Filipinos. Lend to this program your energies, your own leadership, your imagination and your zeal, and I pledge to you the unwavering commitment of my presidency.

This is the major purpose of my visit here to Mindanao and this is the message I hope you will carry with you to

your own neighborhoods, to your own communities and to your own provinces. Thank you very much.

Air Force Chief Inaugurates Radar Facility

HK1507064192 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Jul 92 pp 1, 21

[By Louie Perez]

[Text] Villamor Air Base—Lt. Gen. Loven C. Abadia, Philippine Air Force (PAF) chief, inaugurated yesterday the new radar facility of the 584th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron [ACWS] at the Rio Tuba Nickel mining concession area in Bataraza, Palawan.

The PAF chief unveiled a marker at the radar station and switched on the Central Report Post (CRP) antenna to signify the start of operation of the early warning network in the southwestern frontier.

Abadia said that the place is the only area which has the semblance of air defense with the new radar complementing the few remaining F-5A fighter interceptors stationed in Puerto Princesa.

During the inauguration activities, one T-33 jet trainer flew twice over the radar station to perform radar and communication flight checks. This was followed by an F-5A jet fighter simulating a flight scenario. Two other F-5As also made a low-level pass over the station to test its early warning capability.

Construction of the Rio Tuba radar station was started early this year in line with the programmed modernization of the PAF.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed by Abadia and Rio Tuba Nickel president Manuel Zamora Jr. for the establishment of the radar facility inside the concession area for the air defense surveillance network of the country.

According to the MOA, Rio Tuba will also provide the radar station with free water and electricity as well as access to the Rio Tuba School to children of PAF personnel assigned to the station. The facility is also accessible to a nearby pier and an airstrip that can accommodate a C-130 aircraft.

The Rio Tuba is operated by the 584th ACWS under the 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Wing headed by Brig. Gen. Gerardo Payaoan.

Report Received on Safety of Nuclear Power Plant

HK1407062392 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has officially received the report by the three nuclear experts assigned to determine the safety of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant [BNPP]. The report deemed the BNPP safe. The report also said that the plant would be very beneficial to the country if only its upgrading and operation would comply with all the guidelines set by the Westinghouse upgrading program.

Although the international nuclear experts have confirmed the plant's safety, their study, however, was limited only to the parameters set by the program for rehabilitation submitted. It could not yet be determined if the experts conducted similar studies on the defects of the existing BNPP structure's workmanship.

Meanwhile, President Ramos has refused to give any official comment on the results of the study until he has studied the contents of the report.

The nuclear experts who conducted the study on the Westinghouse BNPP upgrading and rehabilitation program were Dr. Charles Joseph Hendrix, former chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Dr. Yvonne Chu, chairman of the Taiwanese Atomic Energy Council; and Professor Michiwa Ichikawa, member of the Nuclear Physics division of the University of Hokkaido, Japan.

The Ramos administration hopes to issue a final decision on the matter by the third week of August.

Meanwhile, Acting Executive Secretary Peter Garrucho said the Ramos administration is still insisting on consulting the presidential legal advisers on whether Congress's approval is still needed for the operation of the BNPP. This is despite an earlier announcement by Malacanang that it is open to consultation and will attach importance to the political and public acceptance of the project.

Rebels Urged To Abandon Violence To Get Amnesty

HK1407143192 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Communist rebels and rightist rebels must first renounce violence before the government grants unconditional amnesty. President Ramos stated this as he emphasized that the amnesty program will be realistic.

Ramos said it is just proper that amnesty be pursued if the rebels renounce armed struggle.

The president said the guidelines for the amnesty are being readied in time for the opening of Congress on 27 July.

Meanwhile, there is a big possibility that executive clemency will be granted to detained soldiers.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said safe-conduct passes will be issued to underground rebels, although this will be done on a case-to-case basis.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces Chief General Lisandro Abadia said they are reviewing 50 cases involving rebel soldiers who are now under detention.

Leader Rejects Condition for Amnesty

HK1507025092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Nur Misuari, Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] chairman, has rejected the condition set by President Fidel V. Ramos requiring rebels to renounce violence prior to a total and unconditional amnesty.

Misuari said the amnesty offered is equivalent to asking the MNLF leaders to forsake their aspirations for the Muslim nation. He said any new peace talks initiated by the new administration must be based on the framework of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

Governor Meets With Melito Glor Leader

HK1507100492 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By Myrna Mendoza]

[Text] Quezon Governor Eddie Rodriguez has begun talks with Comrade Roger of the Melito Glor Command on the Ramos administration's amnesty offer. According to Governor Rodriguez, he would talk to Secretary Raul Alunan of the Department of Interior and Local Government to ask for the inclusion of a viable livelihood program in the government's rebel-returnee program. He also said it would have been better if nongovernmental organization were consulted in the formulation of the Ramos administration's general amnesty program. He added that an amnesty would be more effective if the government had a ready means of livelihood for the returning rebels.

Call for Mitigation of Charges

HK1507100592 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By Joe Capadocia]

[Text] High-ranking leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA-NDF] have asked that the criminal cases filed against them by the government be converted to political cases before they accept the Ramos administration's amnesty offer. This was announced by Congressman Jose Yap, Ramos' representative in the negotiation with the rebels, particularly with the members of the CPP-NPA-NDF.

Yap personally visited detained rebels Satur Ocampo, former NDF peace negotiator; Romulo Kintanar, former NPA chief; and Ricardo Reyes at a military stockade in Fort Bonifacio earlier today. A visitor, Bobby Malay [wife of Satur Ocampo], was there, too.

Ocampo said that his colleagues are asking that the cases filed against them be mitigated as a sign of the new government's sincerity in its amnesty offer.

Congressman Yap is also scheduled to meet with Jose Maria Sison, CPP chairman, and Luis Jalandoni, former priest and NDF spokesman, who are based in the Netherlands.

Government To Hold Informal Talks

HK1507075092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 15 Jul 92 p 15

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Government emissaries are scheduled to meet with communist guerrilla leaders in Europe next month to immediately hold informal talks and help end the bitter armed conflict in the country, Tarlac Rep. Jose Yap said yesterday.

"I will try to get in touch with the people in the field," he told reporters after attending a meeting between President Ramos and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] in Malacanang.

Yap said he would lead a group of congressmen to help liaison between the rebels and the government on such political issues as agrarian reform and human rights, which the former wanted to include in the talks.

The Tarlac congressman, whom Ramos earlier designated as government emissary to the communist rebels, said he wanted to have informal meetings with guerrilla leaders first, to set the proper agenda for formal negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the 23-year old insurgency problem.

He added that he had already scheduled a series of meetings and consultations with detained and exiled communist leaders to get a consensus and "feel their pulse on the issue."

Yap will meet today with detained communist leaders Saturnino Ocampo and Romulo Kintanar, both former Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] central committee members, at their Fort Bonifacio cell.

On the first week of August, Yap will meet with Jose Ma. Sison, the alleged CPP chairman, in the Netherlands.

Yap said the meeting with Ocampo and Kintanar was consultative in nature, and would seek permission to contact underground communist leaders in the field.

After the two meetings, the emissary would then meet with the underground leaders. Yap said the Armed Forces was willing to issue safe conduct passes to underground leaders he would talk with.

He also said he has scheduled meetings with Ramos cabinet officials involved in the formulation of an amnesty program to convince them to grant a program more acceptable to the rebels.

Yap will propose that the Cabinet Cluster E headed by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa allow him to informally meet with the rebels before it formally meets with them.

The rebels, Yap said, wanted certain points included in the peace agenda, including the suing of rebel leaders with political charges instead of criminal charges like illegal possession of firearms.

"Hindi naman mabigat yung mga hinihingi nila [What they are asking for is not difficult]," he said, adding that the "government will probably have an open mind on these issues."

Yap also expressed confidence that an absolute and general amnesty could still be worked out instead of a selective and conditional one.

The Tarlac congressman met secretly with Luis Jalandoni and Byron Bocar, leaders of the National Democratic Front, the CPP political arm, in Hong Kong and Europe during the last days of the Aquino government.

Thailand

Laotians Arrested on Insurgency Charges

BK1507021292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Seven Laotians carrying US passports have been charged with attempting to carry out insurgent activities in Laos, National Security Council secretary-general Charan Kunlawanit revealed yesterday. Gen Charan said four Laotians were arrested in Bangkok and the others in Chiang Kan District of Loei Province on Saturday. He declined to say where the Laotians are being held.

All the arrested are Hmong alleged to have used US passports to enter Thailand from the United States. Police said they found walkie-talkies and other evidence indicating the group was planning to enter Laos.

The Laotians are being questioned by police in Chiang Kan and Bangkok, Gen Charan said. He also said he already advised Laos Deputy Foreign Minister Subanh Salitthilat during a meeting in Rayong Province.

The United States has also been told to keep an eye on Laotians in that country.

The arrested were the first Laotians held in Thailand on insurgency charges.

Deadline Set for Repatriation of Lao Refugees

BK1507023492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 92 p 6

[Text] Thailand, in an attempt to solve the refugee problem, has set a deadline for Laotians living in the kingdom to return to their homeland or depart for a third country before 1995, National Security Council Secretary-General Charan Kunlawanit said yesterday.

Gen Charan made the statement after a tripartite meeting in Rayong Province involving high-ranking officials from Thailand, Laos and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Refugees who remain in Thailand after the deadline will have their status changed to that of illegal immigrants. Thailand will then take legal action and deport them to the nearest border pass, he said. Gen Charan added that the refugees have two choices: return to their homeland or seek asylum abroad.

He acknowledged that in reality they have no choice but to go back to Laos because the chances of settling in a third country is almost impossible.

"They haven't realised that they have to go back because other countries don't want to take them," Gen Charan said. "Right now they have a chance to choose where to be relocated in Laos. But in the future we won't give them any alternative," he said.

Gen Charan added that the repatriation programme has been delayed mainly because the Laotians have not decided where to live and some districts in Laos such as Vientiane, Oudomsai, Sayaboury and Bolikhamsai are not secure.

Up to now only 1,882 Laotians have returned to their country which is far below the target number of between 5,000 and 6,000 people.

Laotian Ambassador to Thailand Bounkeut Sangsomsak, who attended the meeting, said the Lao Government is prepared to take all the refugees, but such repatriation depends on the refugees themselves and whether they wish to return or go elsewhere.

One of the reasons Thailand has issued an ultimatum to the refugees is because the kingdom has since 1975 carried a heavy burden as far as the Laotian refugee problem is concerned, Gen Charan said. He confirmed that Ban Winai Camp in Loei Province will be closed down at the end of this year followed by Chiang Kham Camp in Chiang Rai Province next year.

The Thai Government, the Laotian Government and the UNHCR also agreed that 3,600 Laotian families would be repatriated in Phase II of the programme ending May next year. The parties also discussed how to increase funding for the programme.

Gen Charan earlier proposed a four-step principle to speed up the repatriation plan. The principle includes the repatriation scheme, the relocation plan to improve infrastructure in Laos, the Lao plan to raise the living conditions of Laotians and returnees and the Lao plan to develop the country on a par with its Southeast Asian neighbours.

But Werner Blatter, director of the UNHCR's regional bureau for Asia and Oceania, said the agency is only in charge of refugees and funding is very limited because of increasing demands for assistance worldwide.

Political Party Officially Changes Name

BK1507022092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 92 p 3

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry yesterday officially permitted the Puang Chon Chao Thai Party to change its name to Chat Phatthana.

An informed source said Interior Permanent Secretary Anat Anantakun approved the change a few hours after a party official lodged the request, a list of its executive committee and party logo with the ministry. The party can now legally organise its activities.

Election Division director Araya Wiwatwanit said Chat Phatthana was the only party seeking to change its name yesterday. Eight other groups have submitted requests to form parties but none has yet provided a list of members for registration.

Three of them submitted membership lists for officials to cross-check and ensure they did not overlap with other parties. They can officially ask to be registered after this is completed.

Eleven parties are registered with the ministry but Mr Araya believes some of them will be affected by members switching to Chat Phatthana.

He also believes not all the pending eight parties will register because some of them will also be affected by Chat Phatthana. [passage omitted]

Editorial Warns Voters on Political Realignments

BK1507022892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Voters Must Be Alert to Political Charlatans"]

[Text] The speed with which political realignments are taking place, as characterised in the form of mass defections by politicians, the changing of allegiances, the dumping of "tarnished" prominent party members and, in one case, the emergence of a new party name to replace the old one for the sake of image boosting, is breathtaking, yet typical of Thai politics which is dynamic and fluid. The events which have been taking place in the aftermath of the "Black May" crackdown on pro-democracy movements show how adept our politicians are in changing their colours in accordance with the political wind of change in the same manner as a chameleon which changes its colours to suit its surroundings.

The most recent example of sudden political realignment, which has caught most Democrats by surprise, is the defection of Mr Prachuap Chaiyasan, a long-time deputy leader of the Democrat Party, who abruptly joined the Chat Phatthana Party of former prime minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan. A few more Democrats from the Northeast and a handful from the Samakkhi Tham Party, who are close to former House speaker Athit Urairat, are likely to join the Chat Phatthana in the near future. The party now claims to have more than 80 former MPs from various parties under its wing. It also hopes to win as many as between 70-80 seats, including about 50 in northeastern constituencies, in the next Parliament .

Like the Samakkhi Tham when the party was first publicly unveiled last year, the appearance of top Chat Phatthana party members, including Mr Prachuap who was named the secretary-general, at a Bangkok hotel on Sunday caused a political storm, sending a shock wave across the whole political spectrum. But aside from the name, there appears to be nothing new about the party to instill the people with a sense of hope for a better future.

The majority of the Chat Phatthana members who are to contest the September 13 election are breakaway disciples of the despised so-called "Satanic" parties, namely the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai and Social Action which supported Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's premiership and are held accountable to a large extent for the "Black May" incident. The minority members come from dissenters of the pro-democracy parties. In other words, the party can be likened to "old and sour" wine in a new bottle.

As far as the Samakkhi Tham Party is concerned, it no longer exists. The adoption of a new party name, Thoed Thai, change of logo and the replacement of the party leader, Narong Wongwan, and the party secretary-general, Thiti Nakonthap, are merely cosmetic changes to give the remaining party loyalists a new image which they badly need to survive politically. Short of structural adjustments, Thoed Thai is essentially the reincarnation of the pro-military Samakkhi Tham Party.

While the active participation in politics of a group of young and prominent businessmen, known as Business Management Service and the decision by several of them to contest the election, is welcome and encouraging, the political realignment which is taking place in the pro-military parties offers a throwback to the kind of hopeless politicians of yesteryear.

With an array of former MPs now under his wing, Gen Chatchai may emerge as a strong contender for the prime ministerial post. He may have won admiration in business circles for his liberal trade policy and ambitious initiative to transform Indochina from a war zone into a trade zone. He may also have claimed economic achievement for double-digit growth which was as much attributable to the economic groundwork laid down by the administration of former prime minister Prem Tinsulanon. But his three years in office also left behind an unforgettable legacy of corruption scandals. The three million line telephone deal with the CP Group which was revised by the succeeding Anan Panyarachun administration and the Skytrain project, which also saw its contract scrapped by the Anan II Administration, represent just two of the controversies.

The voters have the right of choice. They can either elect the "old faces" who used to betray both them and the principles

of democracy or elect fresh representatives who will be more responsive to their political aspirations.

The future of the country rests with the voters. If the May incident is to be a lesson, they must ensure that it cannot recur. To achieve this they must make sure that they do not place their trust in the wrong candidate.

Commentary Views Chatchai's 'Political Comeback'

BK1507032692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Jul 92 p A6

["Comment" by Thepchai Yong: "Chatchai's Tunnel-Visioned Politics"]

[Text] Gen Chatchai Chunhawan is finding himself in the sun again just when everyone thought he was out of the political landscape for good. But is it political tenacity or simply tunnel-visioned politics that has brought the 72-year-old seasoned politician back?

Chatchai's decision to desert Chat Thai Party in favour of the newly formed National Development Party [Chat Phatthana] is probably one of the biggest political twists in modern Thai history. Just a little over a year ago, the flamboyant political veteran was unceremoniously ejected from the premiership by a disgruntled military which painted a picture of his administration as one of the most corrupt the country had ever seen.

Now, Chatchai has informally declared himself a candidate for the premiership—thanks to the support from ex-MPs defecting from the same political parties which just two months ago stubbornly backed the prime ministership of one of the generals who had brought about his downfall in 1991.

Overnight, Chatchai has become a new political magnet, promising an "alternative force" to get this country out of its current political result of the events in May. Suddenly, a man who had presided over one of the country's most scandal-tainted political periods and whose political brinkmanship precipitated the military takeover is now emerging as a strong contender to become Thailand's 21st prime minister. But the prospect has so far caused more concerns than delight among keen observers of Thai politics. Chatchai, whether he wants to admit it or not, is simply not a man of the time.

The circumstances surrounding the birth of the National Development Party of which Chatchai is leader have cast a dark cloud over the ex-premier's political agenda. The fact that most of the politicians who have jumped on the new bandwagon are former members of the pro-Suchinda parties is enough to dilute whatever label Chatchai wants his party to have.

Chatchai's selling point was that his would be an alternative party for voters who did not want to vote for either the pro-democracy parties or those which identified themselves with the armed forces. But the gambit has been so thinly disguised.

The National Development Party has turned out to be nothing more than a melting pot for the chips from the old block, hoping to shed themselves of the bad image resulting from their support for Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister. Some observers even see it as an offspring of the Samakkhi Tham Party, the political party set up by the military to legitimise its political role.

Chatchai could have earned himself decent place in Thai history as a democratically-elected prime minister who had presided over one of the country's most economically prosperous times. But it appears that tunnel-visioned politics has gotten the better of him.

By throwing in the hat this time, Chatchai has dealt his old Chat Thai Party a heavy blow. In a way, it is a personal revenge. It was the current leadership of the Chat Thai Party, spearheaded by his erstwhile comrade-in-arms Banhan Sinlapa-acha, which engineered Chatchai's disgraceful exit from politics. Banhan sacrificed Chatchai for ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong in order to befriend the military.

And when Chatchai expressed support for Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai to succeed Gen Suchinda as prime minister he was snubbed by the Chat Thai leadership. So when Banhan came begging for Chatchai to return to the party's helm, the ex-prime minister struck back. But Chatchai's decision to come back is definitely more than just a personal revenge against the party which his family had come to be so closely identified with, before the fallout.

Judging from the statements he has been making, Chatchai could have been guided by self-delusion to believe that he was the only person who can pick up the political pieces in the aftermath of the May uprising. He tries to portray himself as the person who can bring back the Thai economy's "days of glory."

But the problems besetting Thailand today are far more complex than Chatchai wants to realize. Chatchai might have been an acceptable leader back then when the country was riding on the crest of economic prosperity and the people's political aspirations took a back seat. The events of May have left Thailand a wounded country and fundamentally changed the way people look at politics. If the people have a choice for its next leader, that person definitely must not be Chatchai.

Thailand needs a leader with a vision—something which Chatchai definitely does not have to bring it out of the current political impasse. It doesn't need a compromiser who plays games—the way Chatchai did so blatantly when he was in office—for party interests. And it certainly has no need for someone with charisma if it was a quality necessary to bring corrupt politicians together, like Chatchai did, to support a government.

We all know that Chatchai was nowhere close to being a good prime minister. But many people were ready to

forgive him partly because of the tragic way his administration ended. And Chatchai should realize that, instead of trying to capitalize on what he perceived as people's sympathy.

After what happened in May, Thailand deserves a new start. And Chatchai would have been in a very good position to make contributions toward that direction—only if he did what he had promised to do. Chatchai had offered to wash his hands of politics after quitting the Chat Thai Party last year and volunteered to serve society as a political observer.

Had that been the case, many people would have been willing to overlook many of his past misdeeds. After all, wasn't it Chatchai who gave the military an excuse to stage the coup with his political brinkmanship. And wasn't it Chatchai who made no qualms about extending a hand of friendship afterwards to the generals who deposed him. And wasn't it Chatchai who so openly declared that Gen Suchinda was a perfect choice as prime minister?

Chatchai should stop trumpetting what he claims to be his desire to fight for democracy through his political comeback. The composition of his National Development Party is itself a clear reflection of what he has in mind. If Chatchai is willing to be part of the vicious political circle again, he should not expect history to treat him nicely .

Politicians Respond to Kaset Remarks on Parties

BK1507030492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Jul 92 p A1

[Text] Political leaders expressed strong distaste yesterday at Supreme Commander Kaset Rotchananin's refusal to renounce politics and rule out the possibility of another coup.

In his first public comment on the political situation since the bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in May, Kaset said the armed forces could not help but intervene if there was political turmoil after the September election. At one point Kaset said he hoped "lousy" political parties would not make their way back to Parliament.

Five political parties formed a military-backed government of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, who was toppled in the May uprising, and were held partly responsible for the bloodshed.

The Samakkhi Tham Party, which is known to have close connections with Kaset, is disintegrating with mass defection by members who apparently tried to escape possible "punishment" by voters.

"One man cannot judge whether a political party is good or bad," Democrat leader Chuan Likphai said. "People will decide that."

Former Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong Simuang said Kaset should take the anti-military uprising in May seriously.

"Staging a coup is not difficult. But to make a coup really successful is another matter," said Chamlong, who led the May street campaign against the armed forces.

"Just look at the May resistance and one will know whether a new coup will succeed," the ex-Bangkok governor added.

Sihanat Ruecha, an executive of the newly-formed National Development Party, said Kaset just reflected a "typical" soldiers' thinking.

"Soldiers have the conservative idea that whoever has an opinion different from theirs doesn't love the country and is bent on destroying the nation," Sihanat said.

"Why do soldiers' opinions have to be right? Why can't others think that it is some soldiers who destroy the nation and its economy?" he added.

The National Development Party [Chat Phatthana] was formed by ex-prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who was overthrown in last year's coup. Ironically, Chatchai was the only leading politician who declined to deride Kaset when approached by reporters yesterday. Chatchai reportedly had a private meeting with Kaset earlier this week amid speculation about rapprochement between the two.

"ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset and I understand each other well. We can talk. There's no problem," Chatchai said.

Kaset's air force commandos seized Chatchai at gunpoint on board a military plane at the beginning of the Feb 23 coup.

The former prime minister is also fighting a corruption case in court after being ruled "unusually rich" by the Assets Examination Committee set up by the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) after the coup.

Yesterday's reconciliatory comment by Chatchai contrasted with his previous statement made when he launched the National Development Party.

Asked on Sunday if he was not afraid of a new coup, Chatchai said: "Look at the NPKC leaders now. They can't even walk openly on the streets."

Democrat leader Chuan yesterday also warned fellow politicians not to create any condition that would encourage another coup.

"To prevent soldiers from getting involved in politics, politicians who are to form the next government must not help create any pretext for them, corruption for example," Chuan said.

Paper Urges Abolition of Supreme Commander Post

BK1507091592 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 15 Jul 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Toward the Right Direction"]

[Text] The proposal to abolish the position of supreme commander, a step in the plan to restructure the armed forces, is worthy of consideration. Those who proposed it pointed out the fact that the king is already holding the rank of chief of the Thai Armed Forces and therefore there should be no duplication. Other civilized countries do not have this position. It exists only in Thailand.

Looking back in history, the position of supreme commander was created temporarily during war time. Field Marshal P. Phibunsongkhram (who never contributed to the strengthening of democracy) was supreme commander when Thailand entered World War II. The post was abolished when the war ended. It was restored later on by Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat (a coup maker who destroyed democracy) and has continued in existence until now.

A reason for Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat not abolishing the supreme commander post and its headquarters was that he wanted it to serve as a post for rewarding military officers under bureaucratic traditions. In fact, the position holds very little power and jurisdiction—something we must admit. A former supreme commander at one time even tried to expand the scope of responsibilities of the post to cover that of procuring weapons for the armed forces. Of course, the proposal was rejected by the three armed services.

A proposal to restructure the armed forces by abolishing the post of supreme commander is nothing new. There was talk of it after the overthrow of the tyrants following the 14 October 1973 student uprising. Yet, nothing has been done. Steps must be taken now, and seriously, in order to give the armed forces a structure that suits the present time. The world no longer endorses military involvement in politics, but rather needs the service of career militarymen who do not plot coups.

Should the post of the supreme commander and its command be abolished, that does not mean that Supreme Command officials will be dismissed. The officers are entitled to return to their original units or be transfered to other posts in the armed forces according to their suitability. The government has taken the right step by abolishing the post of director of the Internal Security Command, which, similar to the post of supreme commander, is not a permanent post. The time is now for the government to take further steps to restructure the armed forces to promote career officers and curb the possibility of a seizure of power by the military.

Vietnam

Recent Seminar on Spratlys Dispute Viewed

BK1407144192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Report on recent seminar in Indonesia on "control of potential conflict in the South China Sea," by PEOPLE'S ARMY correspondent Mai Linh—read by announcer]

[Text] This is the third seminar but the largest one. It was attended by 60 official delegates from ten countries in the region, namely six ASEAN member countries, Vietnam, China, Laos, and Taiwan.

In four-day sitting, the seminar discussed issues on scientific cooperation, environment protection, navigation safety guarantee, cooperation, process, and evaluation of organism and microorganism resources, territory, security, and major arbitration and sovereignty over the Hoang Sa [Paracel] and Truong Sa [Spratly] archipelagoes.

The Vietnamese delegation delivered two reports at the seminar entitled: "For a Sea Area of Peace," and "Disaster Caused by the Sea and Recommendations."

The Vietnamese delegation affirmed its sovereignty over the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa archipelagoes.

The Vietnamese state has excercised its sovereignty continuously and peacefully in conformity with international laws and practice. However, the Vietnamese state is ready to negotiate with parties concerned on the basis of respect for their sovereignty and interests.

Besides, the Vietnamese delegation also presented a scientific paper on the latest data collected in the two archipelagoes.

Through the seminar, regional countries further [passage indistinct] Vietnam's goodwill in solving disputes.

The participants proposed that such seminars be organized to help disputing parties to clearly understand each other's stand to solve all problems and promote peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

Hanoi Comments on First CIS Summit Conference

BK1507060692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] met on Monday, 6 July, at the Presidential Hotel in Moscow. The meeting took place at the time when republics are undergoing new changes. In some republics, conflicts continue. Here is our radio comment on the summit:

This is the first summit meeting of the heads of the CIS since the breakup of the Soviet Union. The opening day of the summit was marked by the outbreak of fierce fighting

between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The presidents of the two republics were reported absent at the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to settle the urgent economic and military issues facing the CIS. Commonwealth leaders are seeking solutions to defuse conflicts in the region.

In his speech on the first day, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said: The CIS has so far overcome the first difficult stage of its young life. However, in that period, weaknesses have been reviewed and [words indistinct] civil wars have destabilized the Commonwealth, thus the major objective of the summit this time is to find ways to stabilize the situation in each republic.

The world public hopes that the Commonwealth leaders will soon work out effective measures to settle all conflicts through peace and negotiations in order to stabilize the situation in the CIS and bring happiness to the people.

Commentary Hails Cooperation With CIS Countries

BK1407141992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Commentary by Minh Tam]

[Text] Vietnam and the Republic of Kazakhstan have exchanged notes on the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. Following is our radio opinion presented by Minh Tam:

It is safe to say that this event, together with the visit to a number of countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States by Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Duc Luong, has marked a new development in the relations between Vietnam and these countries.

Despite the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, in the past Vietnam has continued to consolidate and develop the traditional relations with all the Commonwealth republics.

On 9 September 1991, Vietnam declared her recognition of the three Baltic states and set up diplomatic relations with these republics. In early 1992, a high-level delegation of the Vietnamese Government, headed by special envoy Premier Vo Van Kiet, visited Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and Byelarus. An agreement on diplomatic relations and on economic, commercial, cultural, and scientific and technological cooperation between Vietnam and these three states was signed on that occasion.

Early this month, Vice Premier Tran Duc Luong visited the Russian Federation, Byelarus, and the Republic of Udmurtia.

During his stay in the Russian Federation, Mr. Tran Duc Luong signed a protocol on goods exchange for 1992 between the two countries. On that occasion, the two sides affirmed their desire to maintain and further develop their comprehensive relations.

During his stay in Byelarus, Vice Premier Tran Duc Luong signed an agreement on encouragement [as heard] and investment protection and cooperation between the two countries in the field of telecommunications as well as other fields.

In the Republic of Udmurtia in the Russian Federation, Mr. Tran Duc Luong was received by high-ranking Udmurtian leaders. The two sides agreed to increase their friendly and cooperative relations in all fields in execution of a commercial and economic protocol signed in Hanoi previously between the two countries.

Vo Chi Cong Receives Indonesian Envoy

BK1507152392 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 15—President of the State Council Vo Chi Cong received in Ho Chi Minh City today Mr. Scuparjo Rustam, minister-coordinator for public welfare and special envoy of Indonesian President Suharto.

Mr. Rustam conveyed President Suharto's letter to invite President Vo Chi Cong to attend the 10th Non-Aligned Summit to be held in Jakarta from Sept. 1-6.

President Vo Chi Cong accepted the invitation with pleasure. Speaking on the occasion President Vo Chi Cong reaffirmed that Vietnam respects the stance and role of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the present complicated situation in the world. Vietnam, he said, highly appreciates Indonesia's positive contributions to the movement, and believes that in the position of NAM president Indonesia will play a greater role, and make greater contribution to the movement, first of all to the success of the coming summit. For its part, Vietnam will do its best to closely cooperate with Indonesia and other participants to make the summit a success, he added.

Mr. Rustam handed over a check for 15,000 USd from President Suharto to President Vo Chi Cong to help the Vietnamese people overcome the aftermaths caused by the recent tropical storm. Chairman Vo Chi Cong thanked President Suharto for his noble gesture, which he said is a new reflection of the fine traditional relations between the two countries.

Greetings to Japanese Communists Published

BK1507070692 Hanoi VNA in English 0526 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 15—The paper NHAN DAN of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam in an article marking the 70th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Japan [CPJ] today says that the coming into being of the CPJ marks a turning point in the cause of revolution of the Japanese working class and labouring people.

The paper goes on: "The Communist Party of Japan has over the past more than 40 years always upheld the banner of national independence and sovereignty, and

been in the van of the Japanese people's struggle against imperialism, monopoly capitalism, and the arms race, for an independent, democratic, peaceful, non-aligned Japan and for the people's rights to welfare and democracy. In the current difficult situation of the international communists and workers' movement, the Japanese Communists have persisted in their revolutionary will to defend the values of scientific socialism, thus actively contributing to the common struggle of the working class and the whole mankind for a nuclear-free and peaceful world, and for national independence, democracy and social progress".

The paper highly appreciates the whole-hearted support extended by the Communist Party and the people of Japan to the Vietnamese people in their past struggle for national independence as well as at the present national construction and defence.

"The Communist Party and people of Vietnam are always grateful to the CPJ for its profound sentiments and strong support to the Vietnamese people's revolution".

"The Vietnamse Communists and people always support the cause of the Communist Party, the working class and the working people of Japan as a whole," the paper says in conclusion.

French, Thai Banks To Open Branches in SRV

BK1407164492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi, July 14 (AFP)—Banque Indosuez opened a branch Tuesday in Ho Chi Minh City, the first opened by a foreign bank in Vietnam, bank officials said.

The inauguration ceremony on France's National Day marked a return to Vietnam for Indosuez, which originated as the Banque d'Indochine during the period of French colonial rule and remained in Saigon until 1975.

Bangkok Bank of Thailand, another Vietnam veteran, was to open a Ho Chi Minh City branch on Wednesday.

The State Bank of Vietnam has so far licensed six foreign banks—four of them French—to open branches in Ho Chi Minh City or Hanoi.

At least six others are in the process of applying despite a 15 million dollar capital requirement, according to the official Vietnamese press.

Two foreign banks—Summa Bank of Indonesia and Public Bank of Malaysia—have opened joint venture banks here with Vietnamese partners.

Singapore Businessmen Attend Seminar on Investment

BK1507071892 Hanoi VNA in English 0521 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jul 15—Businessmen from Singapore were introduced to the possibilites of investment and business undertaking in Vietnam at a seminar held in Ho Chi Minh City last Monday.

The seminar was sponsored jointly by the industrial and commercial bank, Incombank Ho Chi Minh City and the Standard Chartered Bank of Singapore. It dealt with matters of common concern to foreign businessmen such as the legal status of foreign investors, their privileges and obligations, simplified procedures for visa and licence application, import-export tariffs, production capacity of Vietnamese industries, and priority areas of development.

Singapore is a major trading partner of Vietnam. Bilateral trade between the two countries reached 1 billion dollars in 1991 from 788 million in 1990, and accounted for 25 percent of Vietnam's total export and import value. But Singapore is at the moment not among the ten biggest investors in Vietnam because it began to enter Vietnam's market only late last year.

Korean Hyundai Corporation Wins Contract

BK1507080092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] South Korean Hyundai Corporation has won a $40-million contract from Vietnam's Energy Ministry to supply materials for the high-voltage power line in the largest ever deal between the two countries. Hyundai will supply steel pillars and aluminous conductors for the 1,500-km power line linking Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Condolences Sent to PRC on Death of Party Elder

BK1407155392 Hanoi VNA in English 1415 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 14—Former Premier Pham Van Dong, who is now advisor to the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, has sent a message of condolences to the family of Mrs. Deng Yingchao, wife of late Premier Zhou Enlai, over her recent death.

On the same occasion, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Vietnam Women's Union and the Vietnam-China Friendship Association have also extended condolences to their counterparts in China.

Do Muoi Urges Developing Information Industry

BK1107093592 Hanoi VNA in English 0602 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 11—Party General Secretary Do Muoi has urged Vietnamese scientists to strive to overcome all difficulties to develop informatic in service of the country's renovation.

Addressing a recent 5-day seminar on informatics in Hanoi, Do Muoi pointed to the need to liberate the productive forces, exploit all potentials of the country and set up social, economic and cultural development. The Vietnamese party and state, he said, have always

regarded the scientific and technological revolution as the pivotal revolution in the three revolutions (the other two are the revolution of the production relations and ideological and cultural revolution). This was made clear in the resolutions of the party congresses, especially the sixth and seventh congresses. He continued: "A right path to informatisation in Vietnam must be chosen by Vietnamese informatic workers themselves, both at home and overseas. They must find the most appropriate, most advanced and most effective orientation and submit the programme to the state for approval and execution."

"The ongoing process of renovation has created and will create the favourable environment for the application and development of informatics which together with the informatic technology will become an integral part of the renewed socio-economic structure. In its development, informatics will act upon socio-economic activities and will contribute in no small measure to raising their effectiveness".

"We have to strive to set up soon an informatic research and technology system on the national scale. At the same time, we should strive to step by step integrate our informatic network with that of the world", Do Muoi said.

Foreign Investments, Oil Explorations Reviewed

BK1507075892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] According to the General Statistics Department's figures, during the first half of 1992, licences were granted to 68 foreign investment projects with a total capital of more than $690 million. The State Bank has recently granted permissions to a joint venture banking corporation and seven foreign banks to open their branches in Vietnam. Thus far, nine foreign banks have been operating in Vietnam under the forms of joint venture or setting up their own offices.

Regarding oil and natural gas exploitation, in early this year, the VIETNAMPETRO Corporation has signed contracts with many foreign oil corporations to explore and exploit oil and natural gas in Vietnam.

More Foreign-Invested Projects Licensed

BK1407154792 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 14—In the first half of 1992, 37 foreign invested projects capitalised at 233 million US dollars [USD] were licensed to operate in Ho Chi Minh City, bringing to 197 the total projects licensed in the past four and a half years in the city with a total capital of 1,233 million US dollars.

By 1991, export value of the foreign invested establishments in the city reached 27 million USD. Tax collected from them in 1990 and 1991 totalled 12 billion dong, 1 million USD and 1 million roubles.

Directive Marks People's Police Anniversary

BK1407101192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Jul 92

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers recently issued a directive on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the people's police force.

After dealing with the need to intensify efforts to maintain public order and security and to build the people's police force into a clean and steadfast force to meet renovation requirements, the directive points out:

Cadres and combatants of the people's police force should satisfactorily excercise the duty and authority of the people's police as defined in the law governing the Vietnamese People's Police and should implement Uncle Ho's six teachings to meet requirements for strengthening discipline and public order in the new situation.

It is necessary to pay more attention to quality, militancy, and work effectiveness than quantity, trying to remove from the people's police those disqualified members if we are to build a clean and steadfast people's police.

The people's committees at all levels should direct various sectors and social organizations to closely coordinate with Fatherland Front committees in motivating mass organizations to provide positive assistance to the people's police and should achieve cooperation in the struggle against crime and violations of the law to ensure effective maintenance of public order and safety.

Nguyen Thi Dinh Inspects Election Preparations

BK1207143992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] On 9 July, Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh, vice chairman of the Council of State, paid a working visit to Binh Thuan Province to inspect preparations for the forthcoming Ninth National Assembly elections.

After listening to the report on socioeconomic situation of the province during the first half of 1992, Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh heard the provincial electoral committee briefed on results in making preparations for the general elections.

Binh Thuan is a new province. As a result, it must quickly stabilize the administrative mechanism while striving to make satisfactory preparations for the elections. Although preparation work has been carried out one month later than other provinces, leading cadres of the province considered it one of the most important tasks. They have made great efforts to organize consultations to nominate candidates to the Ninth National Assembly election in a democratic fashion and according to schedule. Documents related to the elections were promptly produced and lists of candidates and voters were quickly posted at electoral units. The province has also organized many meetings for candidates to hear the aspirations of voters in their constituencies.

Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh also urged the public security, military, cultural, and information sectors, the Fatherland Front Committee, and mass organizations to strive to carry out the education and propaganda work satisfactorily. This is aimed at motivating cadres, party members, and voters to study and firmly grasp the citizen's obligation to vote in the general elections, thereby enhancing their political awareness and encouraging them to participate actively in the elections.

Doan Khue Meets Voters in Quang Tri Province

BK1507085992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] From 2 to 13 July General Doan Khue, member of the party Central Committee, minister of national defense, and a candidate for the Ninth National Assembly, visited and met with voters in the second electoral unit of Quang Tri Province.

He also paid floral tributes to fallen combatants at the Truong Son war cemetery, visited and presented gifts to cadres and the people of Hai Tu village and some families of fallen combatants and war invalids, and visited and worked with a number of Army organs and units.

Thousands of representatives of voters turned up to meet Gen. Doan Khue at the 16 points in the second electoral unit, which includes Vinh Linh, Do Linh, Cam Lo, and Huong Hoa districts. At these meetings, voters made hundreds of suggestions to various National Assembly candidates. They expressed satisfaction at the progress made in production and the care given to their livelihood. They also expressed confidence in the party and state, and pledged to resolutely continue the renovation process and persist in the path chosen by the party, Uncle Ho, and our people.

They also suggested that attention be paid by the party and National Assembly to solving problems in social life, especially the policies on approval of investments in infrastructure construction as well as policies toward members of the armed forces, cadres at the grass-roots level, and war invalids and families of fallen combatants. They said, however, that these policies must be formulated in such a way as to suit a province that has been devastated by war as well as recently separated from another province.

Gen Doan Khue thanked the voters for their sincerity and expressed his determination to satisfactorily fulfill all the duties entrusted to him by the party and people.

Nong Duc Manh Meets Voters in Lang Song

BK1507090192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Carrying out the work program of the electoral council, from 5 to 13 July Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Central Committee Political Bureau and the Electoral Council, inspected preparation work for the election of National Assembly deputies in Lang Son Province.

After he was briefed on election preparations, Comrade Nong Duc Manh commended the province for its efforts in carrying out such preparations for the forthcoming election on 19 July in such a way as to ensure that it is held in accordance with democratic principles and law.

He also urged the province to focus attention on certain points to ensure that the election achieves fine results. These include stepping up propaganda on and widely disseminating the election law among cadres, the people, and members of the armed forces, especially those in highland and remote areas; promptly terminating complaints concerning the lists of voters and checking these lists to ensure that all citizens eligible for election go to the polls; attaching practical importance to helping the people of various nationalities in some famine-stricken localities; distributing wages and allowances on schedule to cadres, especially those at the grass-roots level, and retirees and families that are entitled to various social benefits; and examining and revising plans for the maintenance of security and order and control of floods and typhoons.

During his stay in Lang Son, Comrade Nong Duc Manh also met with voters in the second electoral unit, which includes Dinh Lap, Loc Binh, and Cao Loc Districts and Lang Son City, as well as a number of villages and townships and La Duong coal mine.

He listened attentively to and took note of the aspirations and suggestions of voters in these localities and pledged to fulfill his duty so as to be worthy of the people's confidence.

General Le Kha Phieu Visits Thanh Hoa Province

BK1507091392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 9 July 92

[Text] On the 45th anniversary of the War Invalids Day on 27 July, Comrade Le Kha Phieu, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, member of the standing committee of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee, and head of the Army General Political Department, visited and presented gifts to families of sick and wounded soldiers in Thanh Hoa Province.

Accompanying him were leading cadres of the Army General Political Department, representatives of party and people's committees, and officials from the military command of Thanh Hoa Province.

At Tho Xuan district, Comrade Le Kha Phieu visited the heroic village of Xuan Thanh which has satisfactorily carried out the Army rear services, taken care of families of wounded and sick soldiers and those who have served with merit in the revolution. Comrade Le Kha Phieu also visited the Lam Son Sugar Factory which has helped the

Army such as by providing saving accounts and aid to families of the fallen soldiers.

At various localities he visited, Comrade Le Kha Phieu, on behalf of the Ministry of National Defense, deeply thanked the party committee, administration, and people of Thanh Hoa Province for their concrete deeds in helping the families who are entitled to social welfare, especially those of wounded and fallen soldiers.

General Song Hao on War Veterans Activities

BK1507091992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] To make preparations for the 45th anniversary of the war invalids day, 27 July, Senior Lieutenant General Song Hao and Major General Huynh Dac Huong, respectively chairman and secretary general of the Vietnam War Veterans Association [VWVA], held a working session with the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare recently.

Comrade Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare and leading cadres of departments warmly welcomed the VWVA delegation.

After exchanging views on issues of mutual concern, the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare and the VWVA unanimously agreed to implement a number of major programs. They include the establishment of specialist teams to study and formulate long-term policies on helping wounded soldiers and families of fallen combatants to be submitted to the government, plans to uniformly renovate military cemeteries which is to be closely supervised, creating favorable conditions for the VWVA to resolve unemployment problem for families of war veterans, and wounded, sick and discharged soldiers in accordance with the Council of Ministers' decision No. 370. Efforts will be made to seek assiatance from ministries and state agencies concerned to provide more jobs the unemployed to fight poverty.

Officials of the ministry and the VWVA also agreed that they will hold periodic meetings to inform each other on the results of their work and to discuss measures to carry out tasks in the days ahead.